



HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS

Visitor hub to be door for area's attractions

A TOURIST information centre directing thousands of visitors to the attractions of Dudley will open later this year.

The hub, dubbed the 'front door to the Black Country', will be located on a new 600-space car park close to the town centre and will be staffed.

The car park is being built on land between Dudley Zoo, the Black Country Living Museum and Dudley Canal Trust. It is expected to open in the Spring, along with the Visitor Arrival Hub.

The parking and hub are part of a £10 million plan to regenerate Castle Hill and better link the town's attractions.

Council leader Councillor Pete Lowe said: "This is part of our drive to make the town the capital of the Black Country."

"It will be a core point between the three main attractions while also providing a hub to promote other activities and tourism in the area."

The hub will be where visitors can pick up information leaflets and maps. It may also sell tickets. New signs, seats and message boards will also be put up around Castle Hill. A new exit from Dudley Zoo is being created next to The Fellows pub.

Waste plan withdrawn

PLANS for a controversial waste plant in Brierley Hill were withdrawn just hours before a decision was due to be made on the scheme by Dudley councillors.

Clean Power withdrew its planning application for the facility proposed for on land off Moor Street. It was due to be considered by Dudley Council's development control committee meeting on December 22.

The plan has been opposed by community campaigners with almost 900 letters of objection.

VOW TO MAKE MOST OF VENUE

THE boss of a voluntary group poised to take over the running of Brierley Hill Civic Hall has pledged to bring 'more acts and variety' to the venue.

Dudley Council will be transferring day-to-day management of the hall, which attracts thousands of people every year, to Dudley Council for Voluntary Service (DCVS).

Council bosses say the move will save the local authority money at a time when a squeeze is on local authority spending.

The council will continue to own the building under the proposals but it is hoped DCVS will use its extensive community links to bring in more shows and business to the complex.

Chief executive of DCVS, Andy Gray, says the group will be looking to make 'full use' of the building.

"We're delighted to be working with Dudley Council to bring more acts and variety to Brierley Hill Civic Hall," he said.

"This is an opportunity for the community to really get involved with such an iconic building and we're really looking forward to the challenges ahead."

"We want to very much involve the local community in how we run the civic hall, and make sure they have opportunity to host their shows, meetings and other events here."

We have a wealth of talent and thriving community groups here in Brierley Hill who, I am sure, will make full use of such a fantastic building," he added.

The agreement will be on a trial basis for 18 months beginning next month.

Groups that use the hall are currently being consulted on the plans before a final decision is made.

By Heather Large

Culture boss Councillor Hilary Bills said: "Dudley CVS has a proven track record of working in the community for four decades. We want to tap into their vast knowledge and experience to create a more vibrant town hall with more shows and visitors."

"The hall is one of our most prized assets and we have very carefully chosen who we would like to run it."

"As a council we are experiencing unprecedented reductions in Government funding, and as a result we have to look at smarter ways of working to maintain services for people. By harnessing the skills of the voluntary sector in general, and DCVS in particular, we are hoping that this will lead to the hall becoming a busier and more bustling venue."

DCVS is an independent local voluntary organisation that supports, promotes and develops voluntary groups across the borough.

An average of around 180,000 visitors attend shows at Brierley Hill Civic Hall, Stourbridge Town Hall, Dudley Town Hall and the Cornbow Hall in Halesowen each year. In the summer, the council took on extra curators to help with an increase in bookings.

It's full steampunk ahead for author, 18



Teenaged author Imogen Laverick launches her novel Dead Night at Dudley Library

A BRIERLEY Hill student has already published her first novel, at the age of 18.

Imogen Laverick, from Tipton, hopes her passion for books could become her career if first work Dead Night is a success.

It was launched at Dudley Library and is described as a 'steampunk' gothic fantasy novel.

The art student, who studies at Birmingham Metropolitan College's Brierley Hill campus, said inspiration for her first book came from a variety of sources, including some of her friends in the Black Country.

"It's about an alternate universe, set in Victorian London, where there are vampires, werewolves, wizards and fairies and it follows a hybrid of those immortals who is an assassin," she said. "It's gothic, historic and even a bit romantic."

She added: "I think it's quite unusual to be published at my age and I'm proud of what I've done."

Meanwhile, a writer from Halesowen is using his creative flair to help youngsters as a charity volunteer.

University of Worcester graduate Jake Crowley, 22, who studied English literary studies and screenwriting, has been working with Writing West Midlands's Write On! squad for young people. He has recently finished a selection of short Gothic and ghost stories as well as a poem based on myths and legends of the West Midlands.

High hopes Waterfront will have a revival

SEVEN companies are in talks over relocating to a canalside business centre under a council-run regeneration scheme.

The Dudley Business Investment Zone was launched at the Waterfront in Brierley Hill in a bid to fill up empty office space and create jobs. One company, Commercial Express, has already moved to the area under the scheme, which offers a two-year break in rates.

Dudley Council leader Pete Lowe revealed seven more firms were in talks with the council over relocating to The Waterfront.

Built on the site of the former Round Oak steelworks, The Waterfront boomed in the 1980s but has since suffered from companies moving away.

Councillor Lowe said: "The Waterfront is Dudley's version of Brindley Place in Birmingham. What we have got to do is look again at how we can find a good mix between business and residential. The setting is exceptional."

"I think we would accept the thriving days of the mid 80s have gone and it has recently become a little tired which is why we are looking to turn that round. We have one business and potentially seven more. I think there are positive days ahead."

MP calls for fair fuel price

A DUDLEY MP has demanded action over what he has called 'rip off' fuel prices. Dudley North's Ian Austin has demanded to know why a fall in the price of crude oil is not being reflected at the pumps.

The MP quoted figures stating petrol cost 99p per litre in 2009 at a time when a barrel of oil cost around \$70, but petrol has been at 115p per litre despite a fall in the price of oil to \$59.

Mr Austin has written to Chancellor George Osborne.

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Ban for motorist who punched warden

A MOTORIST who chased a parking warden before knocking him unconscious with a punch to the head has escaped an immediate jail sentence. Jason Robert Pearce carried out the attack after he was given a ticket for leaving his car on double yellow lines while at a take-away in Dudley town centre.

The 43-year-old then drove after the 47-year-old warden, before get-

ting out his car and punching him on the back of his head, knocking the warden unconscious on the floor. He fled before ambulance crews arrived to treat the victim for a cut to his head.

After pleading guilty to assault, Pearson, of The Straits in Lower Gornal, was given a 12-week prison sentence, suspended for 12 months, at Dudley Magistrates' Court.

He has also been given a three-month driving ban and must carry out 180 hours community service and pay £400 compensation to the victim for the attack that took place on October 11.

Pearce had been warned twice to move his car before receiving the penalty notice and was abusive to the warden.

Speaking after the hearing, Dud-

ley Council transport boss Councilor Khurshid Ahmed said: "This was an appalling attack on one of our officers who was simply doing his job."

"The offender was given the opportunity on two occasions to move his car which was parked on double yellow lines but not only chose to ignore the warnings but he then went on to assault the officer. We will not tolerate this kind of behaviour."

Tributes to pensioner killed in road tragedy

TRIBUTES have been paid to a pensioner who died after being knocked down while crossing the road in Kingswinford.

Moira May Coulson, aged 75, from Swindon, was struck by a white Ford Focus near to West Bromwich Building Society on Market Street

Paramedics treated her at the scene of the accident and she was taken to hospital where she died.

PM led the tributes to Tory MEP

TRIBUTES have been made for West Midlands Conservative Euro MP Philip Bradbourn, who has died aged 63. The MEP, who was born in Tipton, had been diagnosed with bowel cancer earlier this year.

He was re-elected in May, prior to his diagnosis.

Politicians who paid tribute to Mr Bradbourn, included Prime Minister David Cameron, who said: "Philip's dedication to public service was truly admirable; he was a well-respected and effective MEP."

"In a political career which spanned over four decades, he showed great passion in serving both the party and his constituents."

Service

Born in 1951, Mr Bradbourn was educated at Tipton Grammar School and then at Wulfrun College and Worcester College.

He joined the Conservative Party in 1969 and had been a town planning officer in local government for more than 20 years before becoming an adviser to the Conservative group on Wolverhampton City Council.

In 1994, he was awarded an OBE for his public and political service.

Mrs Coulson, who had lived in the village for 40 years, leaves a husband and a daughter.

Her devastated family said she was an active member of the local church and the Women's Institute.

In a statement released by police, they said: "Moira had lived in the village for over 40 years and was well known for helping out at church and village events, as well as being a member of the Women's Institute."

The road was closed while emergency services were at the scene of the accident on Saturday at around 10am with vehicles being diverted via Manor Park and Park Street.

The driver was spoken to by officers, police said.

Appeal

Shoppers and staff at nearby stores had gone to the aid of Mrs Coulson who they said was crossing the road between Heron Foods and the building society when she was hit by the car.

Sergeant Paul Hughes, from West Midlands Police's Collision Investigation Unit, urged people who saw the collision to get in touch.

"The family of the lady have been informed and specialist officers continue to liaise with them at this sad time."

Anyone with information is urged to call West Midlands Police on 101 or anonymously by calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Super Marc-io's a big gamer



Marc Jones has built a giant working Nintendo controller based on the original he is holding

BEFORE the Xbox, the PlayStation or the Wii, all the rage with 1980s gamers was the Nintendo NES games console and Super Mario Bros was the cool game of choice.

Now Stourbridge video games fan Marc Jones, aged 36, has revived memories with what he believes is the UK's only large scale model of the console's controller.

The carpenter, of West Street, has designed and built a coffee table-sized replica — ten times bigger than the original controller — complete with operating buttons.

Mr Jones said he decided to build the working device, which can be used to play games on his TV, to keep his nephews Jack Robinson, aged seven, and Gregory Priest, 13, entertained while visiting his home.

"I had to research everything to work out how to do the circuitry, measured every single measurement and timed it by ten and scaled everything up," Mr Jones said.

The former Ridgeway High School pupil now plans to build a large scale model of an Xbox 360 controller.

Victim of acid attack wants a fresh start

A WOMAN left scarred by an acid attack wants to begin a fresh start away from the Black Country in a bid to escape horrific memories.

Vikki Horsman spent five days in intensive care and required months of treatment but still bears the scars of the attack planned by her jealous elderly ex-lover Mohammed Rafiq.

The 80-year-old had paid Steven Holmes, 25, and Shannon Heaps, 23, to throw the sulphuric acid over her on a doorstep in Tividale.

The three were jailed for a combined total of 44 years for their roles in the attack at MacDonalld Close on April 15.

Mr Nigel Stelling, prosecuting, referred to a witness impact statement made by Miss Horsman, aged 19 at the time. He said: "It has undermined her confidence, she is uneasy about being alone. She speaks of wanting to make a fresh start away from the area."

Rafiq, of Chester Road, Smethwick, was sentenced to 18 years. Holmes, of Allan Close, Smethwick, who was paid £50 for the attack and acutally threw the acid, was jailed for 14 years and Heaps, of Queens Avenue, Tividale, for 12 years.

Bedsit action wins praise

A DUDLEY Council operation cracking down on rogue landlords has been highly commended at an awards ceremony in London.

The 'problem properties programme' run in conjunction with West Midlands Police tackles Dudley landlords who have sub-divided properties in multiple bedsits without necessary consents.

Council enforcement officers are working with benefit fraud, building control and private sector housing teamson the initiative, which was highly commended at the inaugural Planning Awards.

Thriller on screen

THRILLER Before I Go To Sleep, based on a novel by Stourbridge author SJ Watson, will be screened at 1.30pm at Stourbridge Town Hall on January 19.

Tickets cost £3 for the movie matinee starring Nicole Kidman and Colin Firth. Call (01384) 812812.

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Rubbish lands man with £365 court bill

A MAN has landed a £365 court bill after waste from his home was found on land near to Cradley Town football ground.

The rubbish was spotted on land near to the football ground in Beeches View Avenue, Cradley, in May 2014. It was traced back to the address of Richard Cochrane, at Kingsway, Wollaston.

The 28-year-old admitted he had paid a friend £160 to take the waste for him, believing he would dispose of it properly.

Magistrates gave him a conditional discharge for six months and ordered him to pay £150 compensation as well as £200 towards the clean-up costs and a £15 victim surcharge.

Dudley Council issued a stark warning to people to make sure they only employ a licensed waste carrier when arranging for rubbish to be removed.

Environment boss Councillor Hilary Bills said: "We work hard to keep this borough clean and tidy and thankfully, most people share this view and dispose of their waste properly. It is very important when people are getting rid of large amounts of rubbish that they get someone who is properly licensed to do it."

Shooting at a family home

A MAN was shot in the stomach after three masked men burst into his home in Tipton and demanded money. Five other people, including a baby, were in the house at the time.

The 22-year-old man was taken to hospital following the shooting in Turton Road on December 19. None of the others in the house at the time of the attack were hurt. The raiders demanded money but left empty-handed.

Anyone with information can contact the investigators on 101 or alternatively call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Smash hurts two

A WOMAN was cut free from her car and taken to hospital following a three-car smash in Dudley. A car, a van and a 4x4 collided near to the Black Country Living Museum in Tipton Road at about 5.50pm on December 19. The male van driver was also taken to hospital.

Father-to-be was going too fast to avoid car



Ashley Silvester, aged 20

A FATHER-TO-Be died when his motorcycle crashed into a car as it pulled out of a junction, an inquest heard.

Investigators concluded Ashley Silvester, aged 20, of Wordsley, was unable to avoid contact with the silver BMW due to the speed he was travelling at.

Although they were unable to say how fast he was going in New Street, just yards from where he lived, they said CCTV footage had showed him travelling at excessive speed in the 30mph zone.

Mr Silvester was seen riding up New Street before turning around and going back in the opposite direction before the collision.

The BMW driver's view was obstructed by parked cars and, as he edged out of Manor Road, he collided with the motorcycle.

Mr Silvester was thrown from the bike and hit a nearby van. Senior coroner Zafar Saddique said it was the injuries caused by hitting the van which proved to be fatal.

He was taken to Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham after the

crash at 7.20pm on July 5 but died four days later.

The former Ridgewood High School pupil had found out only weeks before that he was going to become a father. He worked at Furmanac in Kingswinford where he made mattresses.

A statement by forensic investigator Pc Paul Robbins, which was read out at the inquest, said: "The motorcycle had right of way but the BMW slowly pulled out, which was reasonable in the circumstances. Had the motorcycle have been trav-

elling at a slower speed it is unlikely to have been an issue, both could have reacted to each other's presence."

Mr Saddique said: "Because of the excess speed Mr Silvester didn't have time to react, colliding with the vehicle."

He recorded a verdict of death as a result of a road traffic collision.

His girlfriend Olivia Taylor, said after Mr Silvester's death: "He was so looking forward to the birth of his child. He was so excited."

New footpaths are part of park improvement project

A £70,000 project to create a series of new footpaths through a Cradley park has been announced.

The work will be carried out at Homer Hill Park to improve access for its many visitors.

The five new paths will be made in or around the perimeter of the park and will join up with the existing network of walking routes. Dudley Council says it will mean the

Man, 60, is rescued at beauty spot

A MAN had to be rescued by paramedics from Kinver Edge after suffering a 'medical incident'.

West Midlands Ambulance Service was called to a wooded location on Saturday afternoon. Spokesman Jamie Arrowsmith said: "Crews were called to reports of a man, believed to be in his 60s, who had collapsed on a hillside after suffering a medical incident."

"It is unknown how long the man had been on the hillside for but the Community First Responder in attendance quickly began assessing the man and started the rewarming process as he was suffering from hypothermia."

"Due to the man's difficult location, the Hazardous Area Response Team decided to utilise their six-wheel drive Polaris vehicle to get near the patient."

"Once his condition had been stabilised, they were able to use the same vehicle to transport the man off the hillside and to the awaiting ambulance, in which he was taken to Russells Hall Hospital for further assessment."

majority of the park will be accessible to visitors via a surfaced pedestrian route.

Council leader Pete Lowe said: "As part of the Homer Hill Park Master Plan, the construction of five new paths in or around the perimeter of Homer Hill Park are considered essential enhancements that will extend the existing footpath network to enable the majority of the park to be easily accessed via a surfaced pedestrian route."

Some of the cash for the first four paths has come from the sale of the former crematorium lodge in Chase Road, Lower Gornal.

The final path will be added at a later date when funding for the work has been found.

The council said the new paths would benefit visitors along with elderly residents of The Limes, an £18 million retirement village being built near the edge of the park by Midland Heart, which is due to open in March.

The development which will have 120 apartments, is being built on the main part of the old Cradley High School site.

A separate development of nine new homes will also be built on the northern part of the site.

The retirement village proposals have proven controversial with more than 2,000 people signing a petition against the plans.

Student Zara has designs on bike safety



Zara Richards with Simon Strong, manager at Halfords Merry Hill, and fellow pupils from St Mary's Primary

A STUDENT has won a UK-wide competition to design a bike helmet.

Zara Richards, from Quarry Bank, a pupil at Thorns Community College, saw off fierce competition in a search by bike shop Halfords.

They were looking to find the best designed helmets that incorporated safety, innovation and creative flair.

The competition, which was part of Halfords' summer Gear Up workshops, aimed to encourage and give more than 12,000 pupils in their final years of primary school independ-

ence to cycle to their new school. It was Zara's captivating design, which featured built-in night vision goggles and an air conditioning system, that saw her chosen as one of the regional winners.

Zara, aged 11, who was a pupil at St Mary's Catholic Primary School in Brierley Hill when she entered the competition, won a bike and cycle accessories, as well as helmets for other pupils.

She said: "I am delighted to have a brand new bike from Halfords and I

cannot wait to start riding it. I really enjoyed designing the helmet. It was great fun and it made me realise that I have a hidden talent."

Community and CSR manager at Halfords, Emma Thomas, said: "It was great to see all of the creative designs that all of the pupils came up with for their helmets for the future. Our panel of judges had their work cut out to decide the winner."

During the workshops pupils learned about the basics of bike maintenance and safety from Halfords.

Car park scheme ready to progress

A NEW multi-storey car park for Dudley is still on the cards, with a planning application to be lodged within months.

Dudley Council first unveiled plans for the 250-space car park in Tower Street last March and now transport cabinet member, Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, said a planning application was due to be submitted next month. He explained delays to the scheme had been caused by groundwork at the site where designers were considering whether to make one level underground.

More are in work across the district

THERE has been a drop in the jobless figure in Dudley thanks to pre-Christmas work in stores and at delivery companies.

The number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in the district fell by 389 on the previous month's figure, down to 5,880, figures from the Office for National Statistics reveal.

Across the West Midlands as a whole, unemployment fell by 14,000 to 187,000 between August and October.

One in five were speeding in Lye

ONE in five motorists were caught speeding on a road in Lye during a recent police operation.

Officers used a camera to monitor the speed of 72 vehicles in Bagley's Road at the junction of Waterfall Road in November.

A total of 58 motorists were driving within the 30 mph limit but 14 were found speeding.

Police say appropriate action was taken.

Person cut free from car in crash

A PERSON was cut free from a car and taken to hospital following a two-car smash in Dudley.

Fire crews were called to Limepit Lane just after 5pm on December 21.

Three people had managed to get out of the vehicles before crews arrived but one person was assisted by firefighters and taken to Russells Hall Hospital.

From pub to pizza

PLANS to convert a Dudley pub into a pizza takeaway have been lodged.

The proposals for The Struggling Man in Salop Street have been submitted to Dudley Council by Papa Johns.

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LIVE coverage 24/7. Instant replays of the action. In-depth analysis by ex-SAS types. Terrorism experts describing exactly how stun grenades are used. The coverage of the Australian cafe siege was fascinating for viewers. But let's not deny that it was also a priceless training aid for any terrorists planning something similar.

THE most important thing, declared one earnest radio reporter, was not to make any assumptions in the early stages of the hostage crisis. There seemed a desperate, politically-correct desire to avoid mentioning Muslims or Islamic terrorism. But when a wild-eyed bearded man with a black bandana unfurls a black flag covered with Islamist slogans in Sydney, I think we can safely assume it's not Ned Kelly.

ON several occasions the TV cameras had a clear view of Man Haron Monis. Police snipers could presumably have had the same view. The civilised Western response to such incidents is to avoid using force until mass murder seems imminent. Maybe it's time for a new strategy: if you have a clear shot, take it.

IN the aftermath, poor Australia should not be beating itself up over why a deranged Islamist with a string of convictions was at liberty. There is only one perfect, proven system for spotting lone loonies doing something manic. It is called hindsight.

MORE horrors of inflation. At an English Heritage shop I found a penny whistle for £15.

GEORGE Osborne has missed a trick. The price of oil is tumbling and looks like staying low for many months to come. If the Chancellor had slapped 2p on a litre at a time like this, motorists would hardly have noticed. Osborne could have slipped a few billion into the nation's coffers with virtually no pain. (Keep this to yourselves, right?)

A CITY executive who dodged £43,000 in rail fares has been banned from any senior job in the financial services industry. So far, so good. But don't you wonder how many City high flyers are still at their desks on telephone-number salaries, having gambled away the sort of sums where £43,000 barely registers as small change? OUT walking, we stopped at the local corner shop for some traditional sweets to keep the chill at bay. Back in pre-decimal times did any of us, in our wildest dreams, imagine that one day we would pay 12 shillings for a bag of herbal tablets?

WE went to a Christmas performance of The Messiah. It is usually an uplifting event but I found it hard to concentrate on Handel's soaring celebration of "God upon his great white throne," the God of Abraham and Moses, without thinking of the unspeakable evil committed, only a few hours earlier in Sydney and Pakistan, in the name of the same God. Religions preach division, separation and supremacy. We are the blessed, the chosen ones or the followers of the true prophet and all the others are heathens, heretics, goyim, kuffir or the wrong sort of Muslim. The divisive creed of Them and Us is not an unfortunate side-effect of religions but their defining message. It is bizarre, in a modern society founded on the belief that all people are created equal, that we allow the preaching of such stuff in the name of "faith" and then throw up our hands in horror at the images from a school in Peshawar or a cafe in Sydney.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Ring and ride jobs are under threat

UP to 90 Ring and Ride jobs may be lost after its budget was slashed, although bosses vowed to maintain the same level of service for passengers.

Earlier this year Centro, the authority that oversees transport in the West Midlands, announced £7 million of budget cuts are on the way to cope with cuts in the levy it gets from local authorities.

As part of the cuts, £700,000 has been slashed from the budget of West Midlands Special Needs Transport (WMSNT), which operates the Ring and Ride service across Dudley, Wolverhampton, Sandwell, Walsall, Birmingham, Coventry and Solihull.

About 22,000 people use the service, which offers door-to-door transport for the elderly and dis-

abled unable to use buses, trams and trains.

Unite union regional officer Caren Evans said some 50 drivers and 40 schedulers were at risk of redundancy.

"The company has come to the union and we are working together to try and re-deploy staff, offering training," she said. "We are really trying to look at other alternatives

within the company. There are some jobs other people might be able to do, there are options on the table for the members. We understand people are upset about it."

Mrs Evans said an effort would be made to try to minimise the effects of the budget cuts as much as possible but there will be some job losses.

Any changes will take effect on March 30.

Hospital bed blocking at high cost to the NHS

BED blocking is costing the NHS in Dudley around £145,000 a month with patients who are well enough to leave hospital taking up beds on wards.

Health bosses are taking action to tackle the problem and reduce the delays for people waiting to be transferred to a care home.

Bed blocking occurs when patients, often elderly, have to stay in hospital despite being fit to be discharged because they are not well enough to return home and there is nowhere else for them to go.

Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) says at times there are up to 30 patients who are well enough to leave but have nowhere to go as arrangements have not been made.

In the majority of cases patients were able to return home under the care of their GP and with the support of family and friends. But there are those who need to go to a residential or nursing home and this is when there is a likely to be delay because of assessments and the need to find places.

The total cost to the CCG for is estimated to be £145,228 a month — £1,742,736 a year.

In September, there were 29 patients in Dudley who faced a delayed 'transfer of care' compared with 23 in Wolverhampton and 17 in Walsall.

Dudley CCG chief accountable officer Paul

By Heather Large

Maubach said work was taking place to reduce delays and to prevent people who could be treated in the community being admitted to hospital in the first place. He said: "Typically each month, in excess of £140,000 of NHS money is spent on patients being in hospital beds who are medically fit to leave. This is just the financial cost, there are other issues to consider, including the experience for the patients and their families; and the additional pressure to services.

"There are many reasons for these delays. It requires the cooperation between health and social care, between hospital and community staff, and between the services and patients and their families to resolve all of the issues. We have worked with partners at the hospital and in social care to agree actions which improve services so that discharges can take place in a more timely fashion."

Paramedics sign up

POTENTIAL paramedics are applying in droves to join the West Midlands Ambulance Service. A total of 130 people applied in the space of two days after the service announced a recruitment drive for an extra 300 paramedics as the service expands its workforce.

Bosses hope the recruits will begin work by September. Chief executive Anthony Marsh said: "As a paramedic you will have one of the most amazing careers; saving lives and helping people in their hour of need." Applications are available online by searching NHS jobs. Applicants do not need to have experience and will be paid as they train.

First female SVR apprentice



Right track — Ryan Parsons, Tom Hubble, Emma Harrison, Alan Brookes and Dean Parkin

IT'S full steam ahead for a teenage girl who has become the first female apprentice to be taken on by Severn Valley Railway.

Emma Harrison, aged 17, is one of five new recruits to the railway's Heritage Skills Training Academy.

Emma said it has fulfilled a lifetime ambition for her due to her love of heritage and steam railways. "It was normal that a family holiday would include at least one trip on a railway and it's still true today," said the Wolverhampton teenager.

Emma said she was continuing a family legacy as her grandfather, who she said inspired her love for heritage engineering, was a member of the Gloucester and Worcester Railway, as well as a supporter of the Severn Valley Railway, along with her grandmother who received a leaflet and passed it on to Emma. She said: "I was extremely happy to get the place."

Joining her are Alan Brookes, of Stourbridge, Tom Hubble, of Birmingham, Dean Parkin and Ryan Parsons.

'Foolish' man was caught with drugs

A MAN from Halesowen caught selling cocaine and heroin on a Brierley Hill street has been locked up for 27 months.

Ian Nock was on a bicycle waiting for a customer to arrive when police swooped in Moor Street on June 12, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

The 29-year-old had 16 £10 deals of either heroin or crack on him and two mobile phones when searched.

Miss Joanne Barker, prosecuting, said officers later discovered traces of cocaine where drugs had been cut on a dining room table and a dealer's list. Nock told police: "I have not been doing it long but was making £250-a-week."

Miss Barker concluded: "He made a full and frank admission during which he made clear that he was not a drug user and was waiting for someone he was going to sell drugs to."

He said the money he made was used to put food on the table.

Mr Simon Hanns, defending, told the court: "Somebody put him up to this. There has been a degree of manipulation of a naive and foolish man."

Nock, of Cross Street, pleaded guilty to possession with intent to supply.

Police tackle park rowdies

POLICE have increased patrols around a play area in Kingswinford following complaints about youths causing noise disturbance.

Councillor Peter Miller, who represents Kingswinford South, said police were monitoring the situation around the play area in Cot Lane, following an increase in complaints about youngsters behaving 'stupidly'.

He said there had been complaints about noise, adding: "They have just been a nuisance but the police are working on it now and working with the youngsters to try and sort it out."

Glass talk topic

BLACK Country glass heritage will be the subject of a history talk at Stourbridge Library. Charles Hajdamach is giving a talk on Twentieth Century Stourbridge Glass on January 30 in the Amblecote Room at 2.30pm. Admission costs £3. Book on (01384) 812945.

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Dog mess costs pet owner over £400

A DOG walker who allowed his pet pooch to foul on a street near his home has been handed a £415 bill from the courts.

David Walker, of Claycroft Place, Lye, repeatedly ignored letters and requests from Dudley Council after a police officer spotted the 48-year-old allowing his dog to foul in the street in July this year. He failed to clean up after his pet.

Dudley Council sent Walker a £50 fine, which he ignored as well as a reminder letter. He also failed to attend Dudley Magistrates Court but was found guilty in his absence.

Magistrates ordered him to pay £100 fine as well as £295 costs and a £20 victim surcharge.

Environment boss Councillor Hilary Bills said: "This sends out a clear message that we will not tolerate people who allow their dogs to foul in the street and not clean it up. As part of our Love Your Community initiative, we work closely with communities to keep our streets clean and tidy, and thankfully, the vast majority of people share this view. Clearing up after your dog takes a few seconds but the alternative could leave you with a costly bill."

Work to start on housing

WORK has begun on two multi-million pound housing projects in Dudley.

It is hoped the schemes will help to regenerate to pockets of vacant land at a former council depot on The Walk in Sedgley and at Norfolk Road, Wollaston.

At The Walk, there will be six two-bedroom supported housing apartments and three two-bedroom houses. Plus eight two-bedroom apartments for supported housing.

Dudley Council is investing £2 million to develop both schemes and £385,000 has come from the Homes and Communities Agency.

Choir launching

A NEW community choir is being launched when the Beacon Community Choir rehearse at Sedgley's Beacon Centre for the Blind restaurant at Beacon Court on Tuesday from 7pm to 9pm.

Contact 01902 880111 for more information on joining the choir.

Family 'extremely fortunate' to survive sinking



The Duckmarine sinks

THE sinking of a hybrid bus-boat which left a family of six from Dudley fearing for their lives was the result of poor maintenance and a failure to meet standards, a damning report has found.

The Ellis family's trip on the Yellow Duckmarine in Liverpool ended in terror as the amphibious vehicle sank in the city's historic Albert Docks with 31 people on board.

An investigation has ruled the family from Sedgley were 'extremely fortunate' to have escaped unharmed from a 'potentially fatal'

incident. Nobody was badly hurt but the sinking in June 2013 led to a dramatic rescue operation of terrified tourists from the water as horrified visitors watched.

Those on board the ill-fated vessel included Lauren and Olivia Ellis, aged 11 and seven, their parents Stuart and Claire and grandparents Bill and Susan. The family had travelled to Merseyside to celebrate Bill's 70th birthday.

Bill was hailed a hero after leaping into action, helping dozens of passengers to escape as the vehicle

sank beneath the surface. It was one of two accidents involving amphibious boats, commonly known as Ducks, in the space of three months and the Marine Accident Investigation Branch has now ruled serious failings put lives at risk.

In the other incident, 30 people were evacuated after a craft caught fire on the River Thames in 2013.

The report found the Duck crafts did not have the level of buoyancy foam required and had not been properly approved by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency when they

were certified to carry passengers in 2000. Passengers and crew were not adequately prepared to deal with an emergency.

In the wake of the sinking, Claire, a financial advisor, said: "There was a lot of screaming and the girls were hysterical. The water got to around knee deep before we were able to climb out."

Grandfather Bill, of Old Barn Road, Wordsley, pulled himself up onto the roof and threw the two life rafts stored there onto the water to help those struggling to swim.

2,000 families in borough faced risk of losing home

ALMOST 2,500 households across Dudley lost their homes or had been at risk of becoming homeless over 12 months.

According to new figures, calls to Dudley Council's help line soared with the homelessness service receiving 2,400 referrals in 2013/14.

Meanwhile, the mortgage arrears advice service in Dudley received 355 calls to help families, up from 185, in 2012.

Crossing is in place to boost safety

WORK on a £1.2million plan to improve pedestrian and bus routes around Merry Hill shopping centre — including a new crossing for shoppers — has been completed.

The crossing on Pedmore Road has been created near the spot where 53-year-old taxman Chris Clarke was knocked down as he walked to work at the nearby HM Revenue & Customs at The Waterfront in April 2013.

Work has also taken place at the junction of The Boulevard and Mill Street to provide priority to buses to make it easier for them to enter and leave the centre.

Some finishing touches, such as the re-planting of embankments and verges, will be carried out at a late date.

Dudley transport boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: "Initial testing around the appropriate timings of the lights will wait until after the busy Christmas period as we do not want to cause any unnecessary inconvenience to shoppers and motorists."

Councillor Alan Finch, who represents Castle and Priory, one of Dudley's most deprived wards, said he believes the economic climate is to blame for the rapidly climbing numbers.

Councillor Finch said: "It is very simple, the economic situation is creating the homelessness issues and referrals. That is the problem, people are really suffering because of the severity of cuts."

Suffering

"In Dudley they are saying we have plenty of work but in my surgeries I see these people and they say there are no jobs, they are suffering."

"It is getting harder and harder to help these people because even the services which are supposed to help them are being cut."

"These are not people on benefits but hard workers who have never taken a handout in their life, which is why they end up on the streets."

According to the council, just over 1,400 of the referrals were for families who were not homeless but were 'at risk', who received advice from the council to prevent them losing their homes.

Just under 400 cases of actual homelessness were dealt with and 150 others who had already lost their homes were owed a re-housing duty.

Football service award for scout



Talent spotter — Jeff Coleman has been awarded an FA Long service medal for his work as a referee and scout

HE is the man responsible for unearthing one of Wolves' rising stars and after half a century in football, Jeff Coleman has been recognised with an FA long service award.

Mr Coleman's career in the game has been split in two very different directions. He spent more than 25 years as a referee in the West Midlands amateur leagues, before turning his attention to scouting with both Wolves and Aston Villa. His first foray into the game came as a school teacher at the start of the 1960s.

"People were always criticising the referee, so I thought if I took a turn as ref, they couldn't criticise me," said the 80-year-old from Sedgley.

He enjoyed the experience so much he decided to continue refereeing until hanging up his whistle in 1989. But through his connections in the game he was able to make the transition from keeping order as the man in the middle to searching for the stars of tomorrow.

It was at Wolves where his scouting career began, towards the end of

Graham Turner's reign as manager. He moved on to Aston Villa, where he spent 18 years as a talent spotter. The most notable gem he unearthed while at Villa was Danny Bath.

He said: "I found Danny at nine years of age playing Sunday football. I took him to Villa, he fell through the net and went to Wolves aged 11."

Mr Coleman left Villa last year but still has an influence in the game, remaining on committees for Wolverhampton City Council and the JW Hunt Midlands cup competition.

Doddy planning a town hall return

VETERAN comedian Ken Dodd will return to Dudley this summer next year.

Tickets have gone on sale for the show at Dudley Town Hall on June 20.

The 86-year-old will be performing his Happiness Show, which usually keeps audiences entertained for more than five hours.

Earlier this year, the comedian expressed his support for campaigners in their fight to save Dudley Hippodrome from the bulldozers.

Tickets for the show cost £19 stalls and £22 balcony. Call 0870 3207000.

Patron for glass heritage charity

A BLACK Country glass charity has appointed a former trustee as its patron. David Williams-Thomas will assume his honorary role with immediate effect, as the figurehead for the British Glass Foundation.

The charity's aim is to protect the glass, archive and technical collections at Broadfield House Glass Museum in Kingswinford.

Graham Knowles, Chairman of foundation, said: "David Williams-Thomas enjoys a universal respect within the glass world."

Heat and power plant for hospital

A HEAT and power plant will be built at a hospital to supply around half of its needed electricity.

The system will provide around 20 per cent of the required heating at Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley.

The hospital trust can build the plant after it was given approval by Dudley Council. It will be located in a service area, opposite a staff car park.

Footbridge on route for pupils

A £74,000 project to create a new route through a Dudley conservation site has been completed.

It aims to provide a safe path through Swanbrook Valley for pupils walking and cycling to High Arcal School, Sedgley.

The path stretches from Tipton Road to Rosemary Crescent including a footbridge over Swanbrook.

Pride in matinee

A MATINEE screening of the new film Pride, telling the story of gay activists supporting striking miners in 1984, will be held at Stourbridge Town Hall on Monday at 1.30pm. Tickets cost £3.

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

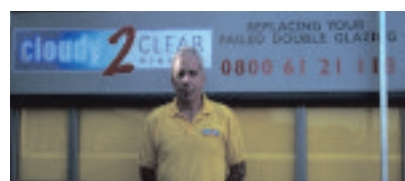
Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people



I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews

ANOTHER Christmas, and more angry customers finding that the 'Winter Wonderland' theme parks do not quite live up to expectations.

Laurence Lewelwyn-Bowen found himself subject to the ire of an army of angry mothers after his Magical Journey in Sutton Coldfield turned out to be more grotty than grotto. Not only was Santa handing out duff presents, his elves were too busy puffing away on cigarettes to bother wrapping them up. And that was when they were not called into action to push the magical mystery train up the hill every time it broke down.

Still, it could have been worse. They could have gone to the Yorkshire Winter Wonderland which, judging from the pictures, looked more like an abandoned POW camp with a few tailors' dummies thrown in to lighten the mood.

Unsurprisingly, both attractions have closed, leaving behind a number of angry customers, but you have to wonder what people really expect. As with all of these attractions, customers are asked to buy into a fantasy land in a far-off corner of the universe that does not really exist. Do they really think it is going to be created in temporary exhibition at a golf course in the West Midlands, or an exhibition hall in Harrogate, for £22.50 a head? Old Laurence really should have known better than getting involved.

The thing is, children can often take pleasure in the simplest of things, and there really is no need to splash out on some overblown commercialised mini-theme park to keep them entertained over Christmas.

But, of course, it is far harder to please the overgrown children, the adults. No wonder cynical companies, with an eye on the bottom line, try to exploit these child-like yearnings. And no wonder it always ends in tears.

□□□□

MIND you, while I'm all for looking back at the days when Christmas was a simpler, less commercial affair, I do think the main television companies might be taking things a bit far this Christmas.

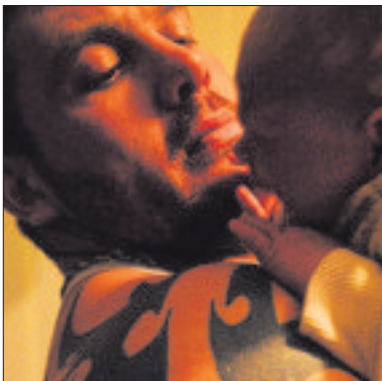
Look, I've got nothing against repeats, even if I do think the ubiquitous showings of Morecambe & Wise, or Only Fools and Horses, are overdone, and whisper it quietly, a bit over-rated. Eric and Ernie were okay, but give me Mike Yarwood anyway.

But this year Channel Five is truly distinguishing itself, with Chas & Dave's Xmas Knees Up — from 1982 — forming the centrepiece of its prime-time Christmas Day schedule. And they're not just showing it once. If, for some reason, you find yourself washing your hair on Christmas night, they are repeating it again on Sunday.

A repeat of a repeat, then. And let's face it, one that wasn't much cop Long, Long Ago.



Steve breeds bullfinches in his spare time



Hotworker Alan Hale with his baby daughter Evie



Shaun's hobby is rockabilly music

Hammering home a different side

These are metal workers but not as you know them as an exhibition illustrates. CHARLIE BENTON reports

FROM breeding bullfinches to rock climbing – the private lives of metal workers of the Black Country are being explored in a new exhibition.

Artist Luke Perry has got behind the camera to show a different side to some of the people helping to keep the region's industrial heritage alive.

The Behind the Hammer exhibition has been created as part of the Black Country Echoes festival and focuses on hot-workers and chainmakers at Solid Swivel, based in Cradley Heath.

Mr Perry said: "I am traditionally a public monument sculptor, that is what I am known for, but when Black Country Echoes approached me for this piece they were very loose in their brief.

Contrasts

"They wanted something that explored Solid Swivel as a company, but they said I should just do it in a way that I find interesting."

Mr Perry, who admits he had not done much photography at all since university, decided it was the best way to convey the lives of the metalworkers.

The photographic pieces, which were hung on the library carousels, each use one of the workers at the company as a subject, but contrasts their private lives at home with their work.

He explained: "There is an opinion from people that if you work in a factory that is kind of all you do – as in you go off to work, you hit something with a hammer and then you go back home again, and there is no depth.

"I have seen the other side of it now



Photographer Luke Perry has an exhibition of some of his work

and a lot of these people go home and they are botanists or they speak multiple languages, and they have great depths of personality and that is something I have always wanted to explore in a project.

"Public artwork, big sculptures and such, don't really lend themselves to a matter as intimate as that whereas photography does."

Mr Perry is the son of Graham Perry, the managing director of Solid Swivel, who also features in the exhibition.

The Solid Swivel company has been

home. All of the materials used to create the prints, from the paper to the metal used in the frames, were found in the Black Country.

Mr Perry said although some of the metal workers were unsure of being involved originally, they were very accommodating.

"All of them were a little nervous about having their photos taken but they were very trusting and kind," Mr Perry said.

"Their jobs require a lot of concentration, which meant they could not focus on what I was doing too much anyway which was very helpful. A lot of them were very welcoming, inviting me to their house, they were very kind."

Mr Perry said people who visit the exhibition will be surprised by the contrasting lives of the workers featured.

"One of the subjects, Alan, is a hot-worker, so his job requires a great deal of physical strength, but outside of work he is a dad of three, a very sensitive father, and it is all very lovely to watch.

Delicate

"Alan also makes these very delicate little cakes. A lot of people might think that forgers come into work, then go home to walk their Staffordshire Bull Terriers and drink, and that is just not what it is like – he is a very modern man in many ways.

"Steve, a chainmaker, is another subject. His work is so hot and dangerous and he uses huge 40-ton presses, and then he goes home and he breeds bullfinches.

"When you go into the aviary you have to be so quiet and calm and subtle in the way you measure out the liquids. All of the subjects are surprising.

"My father was the most surprising though, to look at him now you wouldn't think he was a mountaineer."

The exhibition will remain at Cradley Heath Library for several months.

WEEK IN POLITICS

with Daniel Wainwright

THE picture of David Cameron flanked by the Chelsea Pensioners on the front of his greeting card was not exactly something that screamed 'It's Christmas', Noddy Holder style.

What it did attempt to convey was a sense of British pride. If there was a subtle hint in there for next year it might be that he wants everyone to think he's the one with whom Britain and all its great institutions are safe rather than Ed Miliband.

Certainly he is trying to ram home the message that a vote for UKIP would just let Labour back into Downing Street.

That message doesn't seem to have come up to the Black Country; or if it has people seem perfectly happy with that.

A poll by Tory peer Lord Ashcroft made for bleak reading for the Conservatives as it showed them in a distant third place in Dudley North. The seat is one of the key marginals the Tories failed to win in 2010 when they ended up having to settle for a coalition with the Lib Dems.

So on the one hand, David Cameron's argument that voting UKIP just lets Labour in makes sense. If we were to do as Labour wants, which is to just see UKIP as 'more Tory than the Tories', then the polls suggest support for the two parties added together would be greater than Labour.

Difference

As a result, people voting UKIP would get the absolute opposite of what they want – a party that doesn't want a referendum on the EU. The argument does not hold water though.

Sitting Labour MP Ian Austin does want a referendum and will tell anyone who asks him so. Also, UKIP loves to point out it takes votes off Labour as well. But it's more than that.

UKIP has made little secret of the view that it does not see any difference between the Tories and Labour. Deputy leader Paul Nuttall calls them 'two cheeks on the same backside' while Nigel Farage has said he'd do a 'deal with the devil' in return for the referendum. In short 'vote UKIP get Miliband' means nothing to them.

UKIP will be quite happy getting some MPs elected and then making various demands in return for their support on key votes. Britain does not do presidential elections like the US, however much Tony Blair might have liked it if we did.

When people go to the polls in May they are not voting for a choice between Cameron, Miliband, Clegg, Farage or Howling Laud Hope of the Monster Raving Loony Party.

They are choosing their local MP. Of course that's always been the case. It just seemed a little less so when it was a straight choice between one party or the other.

The coalition has changed that.

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Beavers leader stands down after 22 years



Bye Betty — Beaver Scout leader Betty Southall (centre), of Kingswinford, surrounded by 1st Wall Heath Beavers

A BEAVER scout group leader has bid a fond farewell to her colony, retiring 22 years after co-founding her Wall Heath group.

Betty Southall, 71, was treated to a surprise goodbye party before hanging up her neckerchief after helping generations of children.

She became leader of the 1st Wall Heath Beavers in 1992. The group for the youngest in the scouting family is based at the community centre in Enville Road.

Children and volunteers decided to surprise Betty with a party, presenting her with flowers and a cake. "It was a wonderful surprise, I didn't expect it, I thought I was going along mainly to present Chief Scout's Bronze awards to them," said Mrs Southall, who lives in Buckingham Grove, Kingswinford.

The grandmother-of-three joined the movement in 1975 and was a leader at the 3rd and 4th Kingswinford Girl Guides.

She was joined by her friend Lyn Green, who also became a leader, and they led the groups before starting the first Beaver colony in the district

in 1986, based at Dawley Brook Primary School. When her husband Doug moved to Leeds for work, Betty joined him but still volunteered with a scout group in the city.

When they moved back to the West Midlands two years later, she set up the 1st Wall Heath Beavers on the invitation of scout leader Tom Bunce.

"I have most enjoyed the social part of scouting, not just with the children but the parents too," said Mrs Southall, who also was a demonstrator at Black Country Living Museum. "I'll still be back to help out from time to time."

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Blast Off party was a one-off

THOUSANDS of music fans were reunited when Wolverhampton Civic hosted a one off Christmas get together of its legendary club night.

A sell out crowd attended the Blast Off reunion night, with a record breaking number of tickets sold for the club night, which went on until 3am on December 20.

An extra 600 tickets were released after the initial 1,900, priced at £6 each sold out in less than 48 hours.

Promoter Dave Travis was overwhelmed by the response to Saturday night.

He said: "One thousand tickets were sold overnight and we knew we would need to release more. We never had plans to host a reunion night. March really was the last one but then we decided a Christmas party would be really good."

Fire service facing bigger cuts than were anticipated

THE latest round of cuts to fire service budgets are worse than the service's bosses were expecting.

But the chairman of West Midlands Fire Authority said they will still manage to deliver a balanced budget, despite being stripped of £400,000 more than they had expected to lose.

Councillor John Edwards said a recent recruitment drive to find 50 new firefighters would only replace those that had been lost through retirement. He explained: "We're certainly not growing as an organisation.

"We've lost £22 million of funding, 27 per cent of what we get from the Government, over the past four years."

Whitehall outlined the latest round of cuts to councils this week, saying that nationally they would be stripped of around 1.8 per cent of their 'spending power'.

However, Labour councillors in the Black Country say deprived areas have been hit the hardest, with Wolverhampton losing five per cent.

West Midlands Fire Authority will see its funding fall from £68m this year to £61.9m next, while Staffordshire Fire Authority will go from £19.9m to £18.2m.

Councillor Edwards said: "For the West Midlands that's around £400,000 less than we were told last year. It's a little worse but after £22m of cuts we will have to live with it."

He said the number of fire engines had been

reduced from 61 to 41, with the shortfall made up by smaller 'brigade response' vehicles.

"We cost people £1 a week. We think that's a very good rate for the emergency service we provide," he added.

The Local Government Association said the cut in central government grants amounted to 8.8 per cent, and warned town halls will be forced to consider cutting services as they slice an estimated £2.6 billion off their budgets for 2015/16.

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy put the reduction in central grants at 14.6 per cent and said the actual reduction in average spending power was 6 per cent with some councils facing cuts in their budgets of almost 11 per cent.

Canal bridges restoration work

A £500,000 project to repair and restore 13 historical cast iron bridges along stretches of canals in the Black Country has reached the half way stage.

The scheme is being carried out by the Canal & River Trust. The bridges, some of which are Grade II-listed, date back to the mid-19th century and are among the most iconic symbols of the Birmingham Canal Navigation in the West Midlands.

Built by Horseley Iron Works in Tipton, the bridges, with their characteristic 'webs of iron' and gothic style designs have over the years suffered from wear and tear and now need restoration.

Each of the bridges will have the old paint removed, the metalwork carefully repaired and then several coats of specialist paint applied. Once finished they should look like they would have done when they were first constructed more than 210 years ago.

Seven bridges have so far been restored including the Boshbol Arm bridge, Dudley.

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Tree crashes onto roof of double-decker



The bus was badly damaged by the falling tree

A TREE came crashing down on to the roof of a bus heading out of Birmingham towards the Black Country, causing a section of its roof to cave in.

The 126 bus was travelling on the A456 Hagley Road in Birmingham heading towards Wolverhampton when the 80ft tree fell into the road and smashed through the roof at the front of the bus.

West Midlands Ambulance Service say no injuries were reported as a result of the incident, which left the driver in shock and caused thousands of pounds worth of damage to the bus.

The tree, which broke in two as it made contact with the bus, was set back off the road in the front garden of the Henbury Court retirement housing complex.

Hagley Road was closed between Norfolk Road and Westfield Road while emergency services attended the scene.

National Express spokesman Jack Kelly said: "There were a number of passengers on board. Thankfully it looks as though no one has been injured. The driver was shaken up and is getting support for shock."

Research to start after Astle campaign

THE family of West Bromwich Albion legend Jeff Astle say research into brain injuries prompted by their campaign will start this month.

His daughter Dawn said the family were invited to a meeting where The FA revealed the next stage of project. They were told a small panel of experts will be formed during a meeting on January to help establish the research.

It will include Dr Willie Stewart who carried out a new examination of the former player's brain.

The 59-year-old's brain disease, chronic traumatic encephalopathy, was linked to repeatedly heading the ball throughout his career.

Dawn said: "We are pleased to have reached this stage. The panel of experts will have a meeting in January and put everything in order."

"The actual research in terms of former footballers and dementia will start then."



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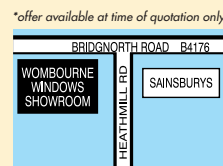
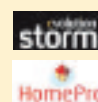
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Hotel and restaurant add to revamp of town

A £9.5 million hotel and restaurant has opened its doors on a main gateway into Stourbridge, creating 72 jobs.

The 80-bed Premier Inn and Brewers Fayre development in Birmingham Street was unveiled just before Christmas. Work began on the scheme in April last year and it has been welcomed by councillors in town.

It is the latest regeneration project in the town, following the opening of the new Look Crown Centre last year. General manager of Premier Inn Stourbridge Town Centre, Alison Fletcher, said: "At Premier Inn we want to be able to offer our customers value for money wherever they plan on staying, even at a prime location like Stourbridge."



Deputy General Manager Keshia Simpson at the Stourbridge Premier Inn



A dining room at the new Brewers Fayre restaurant and pub in Stourbridge a business which has now relocated to Netherton.

The hotel was taking lots of bookings before construction was even finished, as lots of visitors to the town booked ahead. Hotel bosses said it showed the big demand for places to stay in the Stourbridge area.

General Manager of the Brewers Fayre restaurant, which is part of the same complex at the hotel, Guy Mumford added: "It is not only great that we are creating new jobs for the community, we also look forward to welcoming families from the area through our restaurant doors to spend quality time together and enjoy our delicious menu."

Planning permission for the project was given by Dudley Council last year after around 100 residents and businesses were consulted on the plans.

The four-acre site had previously been used for many years by Cox Hire,

McDonald's and KFC are to open branches of their restaurant chains on

the site. The drive-thru branches will be built on land previously occupied by the Hayes factory, before it was demolished four years ago.

The scheme would see the burger chain's return to the town for the first time since it closed its branch in the High Street in 2008, after 20 years operating in Stourbridge.



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Housing group launch a £500k social fund



Investing in skills for youth — Black Country Housing Group chief Amanda Tomlinson with apprentices

A **COST-SAVINGS** programme at the Black Country Housing Group (BCHG) is to raise £500,000 over three years for community projects and new social enterprises.

Chief executive Amanda Tomlinson said that £165,000 a year was being identified by staff at the not-for-profit organisation, which employs around 200 people.

Blackheath-based BCHG will use the funds in the local community to fund apprenticeships for young people

and build skills through its 'Young Blood' initiative. This aims to double the proportion of younger people in the housing group's workforce, under the age of 25, from five per cent to 10 per cent by 2017.

BCHG also intends to create two social enterprises, to support local community projects and fund local job clubs, as well as a hardship fund for vulnerable customers.

BCHG, now in its 40th year, operates primarily in Dudley and Sandwell but also has homes in Birmingham and Walsall. It currently provides more than 2,000 homes and supports

more than 13,000 people with employment advice, care, support and home improvements. It has contracts with local authorities to provide home improvement and maintenance work as well as running care homes.

Amanda Tomlinson, who took over the £13 million a year business as chief executive a year ago, said surpluses were reinvested into the business to fund growth. It has just secured £12 million of private sector lending to fund new housebuilding — around 200 new homes — and the creation of two care homes in the Dudley area for 130 people with dementia.

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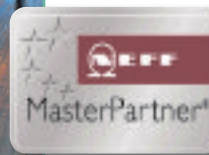
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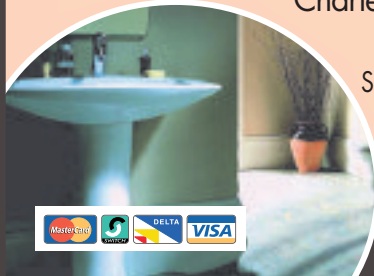
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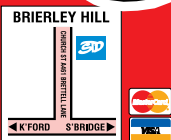
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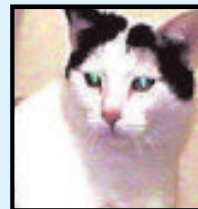
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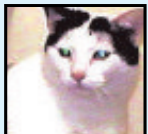
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• March •

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• May •

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• November •

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15

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A lunar landing for singing star Jane McDonald as the Enchantress



Gary Wilmot as Dame Trott in Jack and the Beanstalk at Birmingham Hippodrome



And so to bed... Duncan James, Paul Zerdin, Gary Wilmot and Matt Slack



Blue star Duncan James as Jack Trott before revealing his buff torso and impressive set of tattoos

Happy Jack and his six pack at a giant panto

Jack and the Beanstalk, Birmingham Hippodrome
FEE-FI-FO-FUM I smell a giant hit at Birmingham Hippodrome thanks to funnyman Matt Slack and a whole heap of eye-popping special effects.

The trio of comics from last year's record-breaking Brum panto are back for more inspired silliness, that's Slack as Silly Billy, ventriloquist Paul Zerdin as Simple Simon and Gary Wilmot as Dame Trot as the rib-ticklers three in Jack and the Beanstalk.

Hunky Duncan James from pop group Blue makes for a dashing Jack, a view of his tats and six pack going down well with the mums, whilst Coronation Street villain Chris Gascoyne looks like he's a member of an 80s Goth band as the wicked giant's agent Fleshcreep. "Back on the boos" he quips as the audience respond in traditional panto manner to his villainy.

Jane McDonald as The Enchantress, perched on a crescent moon for

PANTO REVIEW

by Leon Burakowski

her big entrance, looked like she was on a lunar mission as uncomfortable as Apollo 13. And her shaky start was confirmed by her loud cough during the first musical number. However, the Yorkshire singer was soon back on cruise control to deliver her ballads in fine diva style and showed her funny side in the delirious 12 Days of Christmas routine, in which Slack told her she was "his favourite in The Nolans".

Wilmot has made an excellent transition from West End song and dance man to dame and led a great routine featuring dancing farm animals, including a cow doing the moo-n walk.

Zerdin sent up his role as a ventriloquist (though not as well as ten-year-old Lucy who in the cute end-of-show kids' spot told him she could see his lips move) while Slack stole the show with his impressions, zingy one-liners and rubber-faced, slapstick buffoon-

ery, right from the moment he tried to impress Robyn Mellor's Princess Apricot with his moves to Shaggy's Mr Boomastic.

Hippodrome pantos are known for their spectacle and this one lived up to that with an impressive 3D scene in the giant's castle with skulls, spiders, bats and even snot flying towards the audience. Add to that a beanstalk that grows to the roof of the auditorium, a flying helicopter and a spectacular final appearance of the giant looming over the audience, and it's just a shame the chopping down the beanstalk scene couldn't have been better than Duncan James waving an axe at a bit of painted scenery.

There were plenty of jokes at the expense of Birmingham's neighbours including a warning that the Land of the Giants may contain monsters, ogres and yam-yams. More pop numbers could have been packed into the two-hour show but clap-along main song Happy summed up the audience feeling. Jack and the Beanstalk continues at the Hippodrome until February 1.



Back on the boos — Coronation Street bad boy Chris Gascoyne gets into his Goth gear as Fleshcreep

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Paddy McGuinness

Take Me Out (ITV, 8.30pm)
If you watched the last series of Strictly Come Dancing, then you'll have had an inkling that this dating show was coming back soon after seeing Take Me Out: The Gossip presenter Mark Wright rehearsing his salsa on the Isle of Fernandos. But who else will host Paddy McGuinness be sending to soak up the sun? We're about to find out as he introduces us to a new line-up of 30 women, who are all looking for love. So in this first edition, gamekeeper Ash, from West Sussex, school bus driver Scott, from Newcastle, Somerset magician Steve and Leamington Spa student Craig will have to do their best to impress. In theory, Steve should have an advantage as he could literally have a few tricks up his sleeve, but will the girls fall under his spell?

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live.** **11.30** Nigel Slater's Dish of the Day. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **1.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Escape to the Continent. (R) **2.30** Live Darts: BDO World Championships. Coverage of the opening day of the tournament. **4.30** Final Score. **5.20** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **5.35** Celebrity Mastermind.
6.05 **Pointless Celebrities.** Alexander Armstrong hosts an FA Cup special, quizzing Gabby Logan, Robbie Savage, Mark Chapman, Phil Neville, Jermaine Jenas, Jacqui Trevelly, Jason Mohammad and Trevor Sinclair.
7.00 **Frank Sinatra: Our Way.** Alexander Armstrong and Rochelle Humes host this one-off special in which seven acts from across the UK perform their own renditions of songs made famous by Frank Sinatra. The lucky winner will get the chance to perform at a concert celebrating the centenary of 'Ol Blue Eyes' birth later in the year – and choosing the best will be 12 music industry professionals, guided by the opinions of a celebrity panel including funnymen and performer Rufus Hound, singer Mica Paris and big-band musician Leo Green. The programme will also pay tribute to the singer's influence over the past seven decades, revealing why among his peers, he really was the "Chairman of the Board".
8.15 **The National Lottery: Win Your Wish List.** Shane Richie hosts the game show in which two contestants answer questions to try to win each other's dream prizes. Including the lottery draws, with Kate Garraway.
9.05 **Casualty.** As 2015 approaches, Connie lets her personal life cloud her judgement and Zoe is saddened when alcoholic Molly is brought in, having been found unconscious in the park.
10.00 BBC News; Weather.
10.15 **Mrs Brown's Boys.** The second of two festive episodes. Agnes increases her home security after a spate of local burglaries. (R)
10.50 **Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights.** National Lottery Update.
12.00 **Film:** Lesbian Vampire Killers. (2009) **1.20** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.25** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Animal Park. (R) **6.30** **Film:** Hue and Cry. (1947) **7.50** **Film:** The Titled Thunderbolt. (1953) **9.10** Fred Dibnah's Building of Britain. (R) **9.40** Fred Dibnah's Building of Britain. (R) **10.10** British Isles: A Natural History. (R) **11.00** FA Cup Revind: Third-Round Classics. **12.00** The Great British Bake Off: Masterclass. (R) **1.00** The A to Z of TV Cooking. (R) **1.05** The World's Most Photographed. (R) **1.35** **Film:** Viva Las Vegas. (1964) Musical, starring Elvis Presley. **3.00** Big Dreams Small Spaces. (R) **4.00** Restoring England's Heritage. **4.30** Live Darts: BDO World Championships. Further coverage of the opening day of the tournament. **5.30** Tigers About the House – What Happened Next. (R)
6.30 **Sacred Wonders of Britain.** Neil Oliver visits Bronze and Iron Age sites that were important to ancient Britons, examining a causeway built across fens near Peterborough and learning about druids on Anglesey. (R)
7.30 **Dad's Army.** The vicar and the verger enlist in the Home Guard, but their over-enthusiastic man-management brings the wrath of Warden Hodges down upon the platoon. (R)
8.00 **Rubens: An Extra Large Story.** Waldemar Januszczak examines the life and art of Flemish baroque artist Peter Paul Rubens, correcting the misconceptions that have arisen about him and re-evaluating his work.
9.00 **Film: Albert Nobbs.** (2011) Premiere. A woman in 19th-century Ireland has lived in disguise as a man for 30 years, holding down a job as a butler at a Dublin hotel. She meets a married house painter whom she discovers is a fellow cross-dresser, and is inspired by her new friend's happy life to seek a wife of her own. Period drama, starring Glenn Close, Mia Wasikowska, Aaron Taylor-Johnson and Janet McTeer.
10.45 **Charlie Brooker's 2014 Wipe.** A satirical look back at the events of the past 12 months, including the ice-bucket challenge craze and Chris Martin and Gwyneth Paltrow's "conscious uncoupling". (R)
11.45 **Darts: BDO World Championships.** Action from the opening day at the Lakeside Country Club in Frimley Green.
12.35 Darts Extra. **2.35** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show!
6.25 Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan. (R) **7.05** Animals. (R) **7.10** Animals. (R) **7.20** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.25** Sooty. (R) **7.35** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Hulk and the Agents of Smash. **8.15** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.30** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **8.45** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **9.00** Deedee Time. (R) **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.15** ITV News; Weather. **11.25** Ejector Seat. (R) **12.25** The 21st Question. (R) **1.25** **Film:** Columbo: Lovely but Lethal. (1973) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk and Martin Sheen. **2.55** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **3.55** Tipping Point. (R) **4.55** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **5.55** Regional Programme - Weather.
6.05 **ITV News.** Weather.
6.20 **Film: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang.** (2010) A woman is left running the family farm alone while her husband is fighting in the Second World War. The war-faced magical nanny is on hand to help her cope with her unruly children, their even more mischievous evacuated cousins, and her scheming brother-in-law, who wants the farm for himself. Fantasy comedy, with Emma Thompson, Maggie Gyllenhaal and the late Sam Kelly.
8.30 **Take Me Out.** New series. A gamekeeper, a bus driver, a magician and a student set out to impress a line-up of single women and take one of them for a break in the sun. Paddy McGuinness hosts.
9.30 **Film: The Hangover.** (2009) Premiere. Three men on a stag weekend in Las Vegas wake up after a night of heavy drinking and find they have not only misplaced the groom, but somehow gained a tiger and a baby. Unable to remember the details of the night before, they set about piecing the clues together in the hope of finding their missing friend. Comedy, starring Bradley Cooper, Ed Helms and Zach Galifianakis.
11.30 **ITV News.** Weather.
11.45 **Film: Dog Day Afternoon.** (1975) A hapless bank robber sees his simple heist turn into a hostage situation and a media circus. Sidney Lumet's fact-based drama, starring Al Pacino.
1.55 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightgreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 **Film:** Arabian Adventure. (1979)
7.55 The Morning Line. **8.55** The King of Queens. (R) **9.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.25** Frasier. (R) **10.55** Frasier. (R) **11.25** Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. (R) **12.25** Gadget Man's Guide to Christmas. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. **4.00** **Film:** Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel. (2009) Comedy, with Zachary Levi. **5.45** The Simpsons. (R)
6.10 **The Simpsons.** Bart plays a prank on Mrs Krabappel, but it backfires and results in her being fired – leaving him feeling so guilty that he resolves to do everything he can to get her reinstated. (R)
6.35 **The Simpsons.** Marge campaigns against a violent sport that has captivated Springfield's male population, antagonising promoter Chief Englebrecht, who challenges her to a fight. (R)
7.00 **Channel 4 News.**
7.30 **Britain's Wildest Weather 2014.** Last year, the nation was hit by tornados, floods, hurricanes and ferocious storms, as well as the chilliest August in more than two decades, but also enjoyed the hottest Halloween on record. This documentary presents eyewitness footage of an unpredictable 12 months, featuring rescues at sea, homes struck by lightning, an escape for 500 cows, and sea foam engulfing a bus. There's also a look at the science behind these wild weather events and why there may be worse to come. (R)
9.00 **Film: Taken.** (2008) An American teenager travelling through Europe is abducted by a gang of sex traffickers. However, what the kidnappers do not realise is that the girl's father is a former CIA agent, who employs all his old skills as he searches for the criminals and tries to rescue his daughter. Thriller, starring Liam Neeson and Maggie Grace.
10.50 **Bill Bailey Quailpoddler.** Stand-up comedy from London's Hammersmith Apollo, accompanied by light-hearted musical numbers, from religious dubstep and German folk-metal to a reggae version of Downton Abbey.
11.50 **Film: The Godfather: Part III.** (1990) Crime drama sequel, starring Al Pacino.
2.55 Hollyoaks. (R) **5.05** Hugh's 3 Good Things. **5.15** Secret Eaters. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **9.50** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.25** Access. (R) **10.30** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **11.30** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **12.30** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **1.25** **Film:** McLintock! (1963) Comedy Western, starring John Wayne. **3.55** **Film:** The Searchers. (1956) John Ford's Western, starring John Wayne.
6.20 **Film: Zulu.** (1964) An upper-class soldier and his fellow officer stationed at Rorke's Drift in 1879 discover they have been cut off after the destruction of the main British army column in the area. They must rally their small force of 140 men against the might of 4,000 Zulu warriors advancing on their position. Fact-based historical drama, starring Michael Caine, Stanley Baker, Jack Hawkins, Ulla Jacobsson, Nigel Green and Chief Buthelezi, with narration by Richard Burton.
8.55 **5 News Weekend.**
9.00 **Most Shocking Celebrity Moments 2014.** Countdown of the biggest showbusiness stories and scandals of the year, from Solange Knowles attacking brother-in-law Jay Z in a lift, to Cheryl Fernandez-Versini's whirlwind romance and marriage as well as her return to The X Factor. Plus, the ongoing antics of Justin Bieber, One Direction's alleged dalliances with drugs, Russell Brand's attempt to start a revolution, Gwyneth Paltrow and Chris Martin's "conscious uncoupling" and Judy Murray's efforts on Strictly Come Dancing. The programme also has the inside track on the weddings of Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie and George Clooney and Amal Alamuddin, and considers whether Kim Kardashian's bottom is set to take over the world. Featuring contributions by Len Goodman, Janice Dickinson, James Jordan, Sinitta, Kerry Katona, Ollie Locke, Jasmine Waltz and Suzanne Shaw. (R)
11.55 Access.
12.00 SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.10** Autopsy: Michael Jackson's Last Hours. Dr Michael Shepherd investigates the cases of celebrities who died unexpectedly. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. A cottage in East Sussex. **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.15** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 FA Cup's 50 Greatest Moments **8.00** Top Gear **9.00** **Film:** Puss in Boots (2011) **10.20** Russell Howard's Good News **10.50** Family Guy **1.50** FA Cup's 50 Greatest Moments **2.50** Russell Howard's Good News **3.50** Cuckoo Christmas Special **3.50** Close
BBC Four
7.00 Lost Land of the Volcano **8.00** Do We Really Need the Moon? **9.00** Wallander: The Dogs of Riga **10.55** Sammy Davis Jr: The Kid in the Middle **11.55** An Evening with Sammy Davis Jr **12.55** Neil Sedaka: King of Song **1.55** Lost Land of the Volcano **2.55** Sammy Davis Jr: The Kid in the Middle **3.55** Close
ITV2
12.15 The X Factor Class of 2014 **1.15** The Cube: Celebrity Special **2.10** **Film:** Space Jam (1996) **3.55** **Film:** Johnny English (2003) **5.40** You've Been Framed! **7.45** **Film:** Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) **9.30** Take Me Out – The Gossip **10.15** **Film:** The Bourne Ultimatum (2007) **12.25** Unseen Celebrity Juice Tit Bits **1.10** Two and a Half Men **1.35** Morn **2.20** Life's Funniest Moments
ITV3
1.00 **Film:** Gosford Park (2001) **3.45** Agatha Christie's Marple **5.55** Rosemary & Thyme **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** Midsomer Murders **10.00** Lewis **12.05** A Is for Acid **1.55** Judge Judy **2.15** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping
ITV4
1.05 **Film:** The Sting (1973) **3.40** **Film:** Police Academy 5: Assignment Miami Beach (1988) **5.30** Storage Wars **6.00** Storage Wars Unlocked **7.00** Storage Wars **9.00** **Film:** Texas Killing Fields (2011) **11.10** **Film:** Total Recall (1990) **1.20** The Motorbike Show **2.10** Minder **E4**
11.00 Troy **11.30** How I Met Your Mother **12.30** **Film:** The Spiderwick Chronicles (2008) **2.25** Rude (ish) Tube **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **5.00** **Film:** The Golden Child (1986) **6.50** Rude (ish) Tube Shorts **7.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** **Film:** Role Models (2008) **11.05** **Film:** End of Days (1999) **1.30** The Inbetweeners **2.30** Rude Tube **3.25** Made in Chelsea: End of Season Party **4.20** Frozen at Christmas
Film4
11.00 Arriety (2010) **1.00** Coraline (2009) **3.05** Dragonball Evolution (2009) **4.45** New in Town (2009) **6.45** The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (2010) **9.00** Resident Evil (2002) **11.00** Lawless (2012) **1.15** 10 Years (2011) **3.25** Close

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CHOICE



Kate Humble

Kate Humble – Into the Volcano (BBC2, 8pm)
Wildlife expert and TV presenter Kate Humble is brave if nothing else. Take this latest two-parter that she's fronting – in which she will be journeying right to the heart of one of the world's most active volcanoes. She and a team of geologists are on the island of Tanna, in the Vanuatu archipelago, studying Yasur, a volcano that erupts constantly, blowing out red-hot lava bombs and covering the area in thick black ash. Kate and the team are keen to decipher when another eruption can be expected, but to do this, they need to collect a lava bomb the minute it's thrown from the crater. In preparing for their mission, Kate explores the island and discovers how the volcano shapes the lives, traditions and beliefs of everyone who lives in its shadows.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 7.55 Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights. (R) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) 11.00 Escape to the Country. (R) 12.00 Bargain Hunt. 1.00 BBC News: Weather. 1.15 Flog It! 2.15 Songs of Praise. 2.50 FA Cup Final Score. 5.00 BBC News: Regional News: Weather. 5.20 Match of the Day Live. Arsenal v Hull City (Kick-off 5.30pm). 7.30 Still Open All Hours. Love is in the air in the corner shop as Granville continues his attempts to woo Mavis. Gastric needs yet more help with his love life and Leroy arouses jealousy. 8.00 Countryfile. Adam Henson presents a special edition focusing on rare-breed farm animals and the threats to their future. He is joined by his father Joe, a founder of the Rare Breeds Survival Trust, who advises him on a potential addition to his farm – Longhorn cattle – and his daughter Ella helps train his Exmoor ponies. Adam also looks back at memorable items from the Countryfile archive featuring rare breeds, including Ellie Harrison learning to plough with a shire horse, Matt Baker following Tamworth pigs from farm to fork and Adam himself finding out how technology can help guarantee the future of rare farm animals. Including Weather for the Week Ahead. 9.00 Last Tango in Halifax. Alan finally lets Della into his secret about Gary, but is saddened when she punishes Caroline for his mistake – and on her wedding of all days. Gillian is left humiliated at work by an unexpected visit from Robbie's other half Cheryl, who reveals she knows the pair are sleeping together. 10.00 BBC News: Regional News. 10.30 Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights. Mark Chapman presents action from today's third-round matches, which saw the lower league sides aiming to get an upset against those from the Premier League and Championship. 11.50 The Apprentice USA. New series. Donald Trump kicks off another celebrity edition, with candidates including Gary Busey, Dionne Warwick, Meat Loaf and David Cassidy selling pizzas. 1.15 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.20 BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 Great British Garden Revival. (R) 7.15 Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) 8.00 Countryfile. (R) 9.00 FA Cup Rewind: Third-Round Classics. (R) 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 11.30 Food & Drink. (R) 12.00 The Great British Bake Off Masterclass. (R) 1.00 Live Darts: BDO World Championships. Coverage of the second day of the tournament. 4.45 Ski Sunday. 5.30 Coast. (R) 6.00 Tigers About the House – What Happened Next. Part two of two. The Clarks see the harsh reality of poaching in Indonesia when they visit tigers that were caught in snares, prompting Giles to concoct an ambitious plan to save the injured big cats in the wild. Back in Australia, Spot and Stripe are days away from their first birthday and will no longer be classed as cubs, while Spot faces an operation that may end with him losing all vision. (R) 7.00 Top Gear Patagonia Special. Part one of two. Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May take used sports cars on a gruelling trip to the world's southernmost city to stage a game of car football. (R) 8.00 Kate Humble – Into the Volcano. Part one of two. Kate joins a team of geologists on a research expedition to the Vanuatu archipelago in the southern Pacific, and explores the volcano of Mount Yasur on Tanna. 9.00 Reinventing the Royals. First of a two-part documentary in which Steward Hewlett tells the inside story of the relationship between the monarchy and the media during the past 20 years. 10.00 QI XL. Extended edition. Jeremy Clarkson, Sandi Toksvig, Danny Baker and Alan Davies attempt to answer host Stephen Fry's range of fiendish questions on the topics of luck and loss. 10.45 Racing Legends: Barry Sheene. Jim Moir (Vic Reeves) pays tribute to the former motorcycle racing world champion, examining how he rose to the top of his sport and became a popular public figure. (R) 11.45 Darts: BDO World Championships. Action from the second day at the Lakeside Country Club in Frimley Green. 12.35 Darts Extra. 2.35 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) 3.35 Holly City. (R) 4.35 This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! 6.25 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.35 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.40 Dino Dan. (R) 6.50 Dino Dan. (R) 7.05 Animals. (R) 7.10 Animals. (R) 7.20 Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) 7.25 Sooty. (R) 7.35 Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) 7.50 Ultimate Spider-Man. 8.15 Horrid Henry. (R) 8.30 Nerds & Monsters. (R) 8.45 Nerds & Monsters. (R) 9.00 Deedee Stories. (R) 9.25 Film: Columbo: Agenda for Murder. (1990) 11.15 ITV News: Weather. 11.25 Britain's Best Bakery. (R) 12.25 Inside the National Trust. (R) 1.25 River Monsters. (R) 1.55 Midsummer Murders. (R) 3.55 Film: On Her Majesty's Secret Service. (1969) James Bond adventure, with George Lazenby. 6.35 Regional Programme: Weather. 6.45 ITV News: Weather. 7.00 Diversity Live. An entertainment special with the street-dance crew, featuring a range of spectacular new routines and appearances by special guests. Fresh from their UK arena tour, the Britain's Got Talent 2009 winners flex their creative muscles and demonstrate how all forms of dance, from ballet and jazz to tap, have inspired their career. They also look at the major influences that have helped them along the way, as the programme charts the group's journey to stardom. 8.00 Foyle's War. New series. Michael Kitchen returns to the role of Christopher Foyle, senior intelligence officer for MI5, in the first of three films. Foyle is drawn into the world of corrupt Nazi businessmen when a university professor is found murdered in a London park. When it transpires the victim was working as a translator in Nuremberg, the detective realises there are powerful people trying to conceal secrets from the Second World War. Meanwhile, Sam (Honeyuckle Vee) volunteers for a risky undercover job, despite being pregnant. Guest stars include John Mahoney (Frasier), Jaime Winstone (Mad Dogs) and Nigel Lindsay (Four Lions). 10.00 ITV News: Weather. 10.15 Film: Hot Fuzz. (2007) Action comedy, starring Simon Pegg and Nick Frost. 12.25 Premiership Rugby Union. 1.20 The Store. 2.55 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) 3.40 ITV Nightscreen. 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.10 NFL: The American Football Show. (R) 7.05 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.55 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.25 Frasier. (R) 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.55 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 1.20 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 1.50 Film: Angus, Thongs and Perfect Snogging. (2008) Comedy drama, starring Georgia Groome. 3.50 Film: Diary of a Wimpy Kid. (2010) Family comedy, starring Zachary Gordon. 5.40 Channel 4 News. 6.55 A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. New series. Laura Hamilton advises former pub landlady Janice Gibson, who wants to swap her Newcastle lifestyle for a new start in the Mar Menor area of southern Spain. 7.00 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. Phil Spencer is on the Mersey, trying to sell two properties with dodgy decor and problem pooches. Ron hasn't been able to part with his four-bedroom family home after 18 months on the market, and it looks like his beloved pug Janice is to blame. On the Wirral, Phil has got his hands full with Sandy and her six dogs. 8.00 The Hotel. Mark organises a record-breaking attempt to bake Britain's biggest scone, but Cavendish owner Vicky does not have much faith in head chef Gerry's ability to pull it off. 9.00 Walking the Nile. New series. Levison Wood treks the length of the River Nile from source to sea, on a nine-month expedition taking him through jungles, savannahs, deserts, cities and war zones. 10.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown Christmas Special. Jimmy Carr hosts the comedy panel show's version of the words-and-numbers quiz, with team captains Sean Lock and Jon Richardson joined by Kathy Burke and David Baddiel. (R) 11.05 Rude Tube: Welcome to 2015. Alex Zane explores the 100 most popular internet videos of the past 12 months in a special edition of the show, featuring the spider-dog prank. (R) 1.00 Film: Thirst. (2009) 3.15 The Guides. (R) 3.30 Mesh: Tourist Trap. (R) 3.35 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners. (R) 4.30 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. (R) 5.25 Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites. (R) 5.40 Small Animal Hospital. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. 6.05 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 6.15 Angelina Ballerina. (R) 6.30 Pip Ahoy! (R) 6.40 The Mr Men Show. (R) 6.50 Chloe's Closet. (R) 7.05 Only the Little White Van. (R) 7.10 Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) 7.20 Make Way for Maddy. (R) 7.35 Paw Patrol. 7.55 Little Princess. (R) 8.10 The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) 8.25 Wanda and the Alien. 8.40 Zack and Quack. (R) 8.55 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 9.15 Jelly Jam. (R) 9.30 LazyTown. (R) 10.00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) 10.35 Monkey Life. (R) 11.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) 12.00 Film: Forever Young. (1992) Romantic sci-fi drama, with Mel Gibson and Jamie Lee Curtis. 1.55 Film: The Princess Bride. (1987) Comic fantasy adventure, starring Cary Elwes. 3.50 Film: Snow White. (2001) Fairy-tale fantasy, starring Kristin Kreuk. 5.35 Film: Bambi. (1942) Animated drama, with the voice of Bobby Stewart. 6.55 5 News Weekend. 7.05 Film: Rush Hour. (1998) A Hong Kong detective is sent to Los Angeles to investigate a kidnapping, but the local authorities worry that his presence in America might spark an international incident, and assign a loud-mouthed and troublesome cop to keep an eye on him. However, the new partnership proves an explosive combination. Comedy adventure, starring Jackie Chan, Chris Tucker, Ken Leung, Tom Wilkinson and Chris Penn. Edited for language and violence. 9.00 Film: House at the End of the Street. (2011) Premiere. A teenager moves to a new area and discovers a nearby house was the site of a horrifying incident in which a girl murdered her parents before disappearing without trace. She befriends the killer's troubled brother, but starts to worry that he may be hiding a terrifying secret. Horror, starring Jennifer Lawrence and Max Thieriot. 10.55 Film: Final Destination. (2000) A teenager's premonition saves his friends from dying in a plane crash, but their narrow escape is only the prelude to a chain of tragedies. Horror, with Devon Sawa and Ali Larter. 12.50 SuperCasino. 3.10 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) 4.00 House Doctor. (R) 4.25 Make It Big. (R) 5.15 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.40 Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be with You. 7.30 FA Cup's 50 Greatest Moments. 8.30 World's Craziest Fools. 9.00 Russell Howard's Good News. 10.00 Family Guy. 10.50 American Dad! 11.30 FA Cup's 50 Greatest Moments. 12.30 Russell Howard's Good News. 1.30 Life Is Tuff. 4.00 Close
BBC Four
7.00 Sing's Musicals. 8.00 Mark Lawson Talks to PD James. 9.00 Hermitage Revealed. 10.00 Film: A Royal Affair (2012). 12.10 Top of the Pops: 1980 – Big Hits. 1.10 The Carpenters at the BBC. 1.45 Sing's Musicals. 2.45 Hermitage Revealed. 3.45 Close
ITV2
11.25 Take Me Out. 12.25 Take Me Out – The Gossip. 1.10 Blue: The Hot Desk. 1.25 Film: Richie Rich (1994). 3.20 Film: Beethoven's 2nd (1993). 5.10 Film: Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed (2004). 7.00 Film: Evan Almighty (2007). 9.00 Film: Knocked Up (2007). 11.35 Film: Saw II (2005). 1.30 Fake Reaction. 2.10 Blue: The Hot Desk. 2.20 Teleshopping. 5.50 ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
11.25 Wycliffe. 12.40 Rosemary & Thyme. 1.45 Film: Blue Murder at St Trinian's (1957). 3.35 Inspector Morse. 5.55 Lewis. 8.00 The Zoo. 9.00 It'll Be Alright on the Night. 10.00 Northern Lights. 11.00 Film: Larry Crowne (2011). 1.05 The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes. 2.00 Countrywide. 2.50 Judge Judy. 3.10 ITV3 Nightscreen. 3.40 Emmerdale
ITV4
2.55 Storage Wars. 6.10 Film: The Cimarón Kid (1952). 8.00 Premiership Rugby Union. 9.00 Film: Troy (2004). 12.15 Film: This Is Spinal Tap (1984). 1.55 The Cycle Show. 2.45 ITV4 Nightscreen. 3.00 Teleshopping. 3.30 The Store. 4.30 Teleshopping
E4
12.30 Melissa & Joey. 1.30 How I Met Your Mother. 2.00 The Big Bang Theory. 4.00 Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. 5.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine. 6.00 The Big Bang Theory. 8.00 Film: Home Alone 2: Lost in New York (1992). 10.20 The Inbetweeners. 11.30 Made in Chelsea: End of Season Party. 12.30 Virtually Famous. 1.25 Rules of Engagement. 2.20 The 100. 3.00 The Ricky Gervais Show. 3.30 Hollyoaks
Film4
11.00 A Ticket to Tomahawk (1950). 1.00 Leap Year (2010). 3.00 Journey to the Center of the Earth (2008). 4.50 Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events (2004). 6.55 Tower Heist (2011). 9.00 Battleship (2012). 11.35 Affie (1966). 1.50 Wrong Turn 2: Dead End (2007). 3.50 Close

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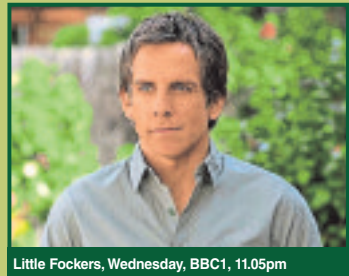
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MONDAY
Stolen Child, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A couple who have tried unsuccessfully to conceive resort to adopting a baby from Eastern Europe. However, their newfound happiness is shattered when they discover the disturbing series of events that brought the child into their lives. Drama, starring Emmanuelle Vaugier and Corbin Bernsen. (2012)

TUESDAY
Dinner for Schmucks, BBC1, 11.50pm
An ambitious executive hopes to win a mean-spirited contest held by his bosses to find the most ridiculous dinner-party guest for everyone to mock. He thinks he has found the perfect winning entry when he meets a dim-witted and socially awkward amateur taxidermist – but has to contend with pretending they are friends. Comedy, with Steve Carell and Paul Rudd. (2010)

WEDNESDAY
Little Fockers, BBC1, 11.05pm
Nurse Greg is now the proud father of twins, but has yet to earn the respect of his wife's stern father after 10 years of marriage. The couple invite both sides of their extended family to the kids' birthday party, where Greg makes a desperate effort to finally prove his worth to his father-in-law. Comedy sequel, with Ben Stiller, Robert De Niro, Owen Wilson and Dustin Hoffman. (2010)



Little Fockers, Wednesday, BBC1, 11.05pm

THURSDAY
A Time to Remember, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A middle-aged single mother returns under a cloud to the family home for Thanksgiving, where she tries to heal the fractured relationship between herself and her estranged mother. However, any possible reconciliation is threatened by an unexpected and dramatic development. Drama, starring Dana Delany, Doris Roberts, Megan Gallagher, Louise Fletcher, Rosemary Forsyth, Robert Bauer, Erich Anderson, Amy Stell, Davenia McFadden and Michael Dean Jacobs. (2003)

FRIDAY
The Invention of Lying, ITV, 10.40pm
In a world where everyone always tells the truth, a failed documentary writer learns how to lie. Since no one else knows what deception is, his most ludicrous inventions are taken at face value, making him a huge success – and ultimately leading to him starting his own religion. Comedy, starring Ricky Gervais, Jennifer Garner, Jonah Hill, Louis CK, Jeffrey Tambor, Fionnula Flanagan, Rob Lowe and Tina Fey. (2009)



Duo return to unravel another mysterious case

Prepare to be gripped to the TV again – yes, David Tennant and Olivia Coleman are back as Alec Hardy and Ellie Miller in the second series of the drama that kept the nation on the edge of its seats in March 2013.

Broadchurch made such a massive impact on its initial broadcast that it's hard to believe it's almost two years since it made its debut, and this sequel is one of the most eagerly awaited programmes of recent years.

The original run focused on the murder of 11-year-old Danny Latimer. For eight weeks, viewers attempted to guess whodunit, and were shocked when it was revealed – spoiler alert – that it was Ellie's husband Joe who was the culprit. We also cheered her on when she gave him a kicking after discovering the truth.

Both Ellie and Hardy were expected to leave the police force after solving the murder – she to perhaps start a new life with her sons elsewhere, and he due to ill health – but neither of them seems to have been able to leave the sleepy Dorset town.

Jodie Whittaker also returns as Danny's pregnant mum Beth, while Andrew Buchan, Arthur Darvill, Jonathan Bailey, Carolyn Pickles, Tanya Franks, Joe Sims, Simone McAullay, Adam Wilson and Charlotte Beaumont also reprise their roles.

But there are a few newcomers too, including Eve Myles, Marianne Jean-Baptiste, Meera Syal, James D'Arcy and Charlotte Rampling.

"The whole Broadchurch team has been delighted and properly gobsmacked by the response from ITV viewers," says writer Chris Chibnall. "When I first talked to Peter Fincham and Laura Mackie, ITV's Director of Drama about Broadchurch, I mentioned that if people liked it, there was another very different story we could tell afterwards. I'm really thrilled we're going to tell that story too."

"It's such a privilege to be able to work with Chris to bring the next chapter of Broadchurch to our screens," adds executive producer Jane Featherstone. "And although we're giving nothing away right now, I

can tell you it's going to keep on delivering surprises and scale."

For now, nobody is willing to say what the surprises are, or even what the story is about – we're all going to have to tune in to find out. However, there is a clue out there for anyone with the time and patience to look for it.

At the Harrogate Crime Writing Festival in July, Chibnall, Colman and Whittaker helped launch the Broadchurch novelisation alongside author Erin Kelly. She revealed that Chibnall had added a sentence close to her publication deadline that gave a hint of what the sequel would be about.

It's been announced that Rampling will play a character called Jocelyn who didn't appear in the first series – but her house is featured on a map of the town in the book, and she is also mentioned. Could she be the key to the story?

Maybe – fans are already discussing the theory on the internet, and it will certainly be interesting to find out if they're right.



Olivia Colman and David Tennant star in Broadchurch, Monday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Richard Wilson on the Road, ITV, 8pm
New series. The One Foot in the Grave star tours the UK in a vintage 1960s car, but there's no sat-nav for him – he's using guidebooks first published in the 1930s. Beginning in the heart of the Derbyshire countryside, the actor learns about the Kinder Scout uprising that led to the freedom to roam the Derbyshire Dales.

Rich, Russian and Living in London, BBC2, 9pm
Documentary exploring the lives of wealthy Russians who have chosen to make London their home, looking at why they favoured the city and their obsessions with the English education system, polo and the monarchy. The film follows an art collector; and an entrepreneur who says he was chased out of Russia for his liberal views and growing bank balance, as well as revealing more about the life of a supermodel and two debutantes preparing for the glitz and glamour of the prestigious Russian ball.

TUESDAY
Silent Witness, BBC1, 9pm
New series. Nikki and Jack are called to a petrol

station where three people have been shot dead, and conclude it is the work of a concealed shooter working from long range – a sniper is at large in London. They combine ballistics and wound pathology with the killer-profiling skills of senior investigator DCI Jane De Freitas, as they work to find this seemingly random murderer before panic hits the city. Continues tomorrow.

WEDNESDAY
Celebrity Big Brother: Live Launch, Channel 5, 9pm
New series. The fly-on-the-wall fun begins once more as Emma Willis invites a fresh group of famous faces to move in together and have their every word and move recorded for the enjoyment of the viewing public. This time round, the famous residents will be taking part in their own fairy tale, although with Big Brother in charge, it is unlikely they are going to live happily ever after. The newly designed house has whimsical elements conjuring up a magical atmosphere full of possibility – but there are also hints that something more sinister is lurking. It's to be hoped that

BB fans don't have anything else planned for the next three weeks.

THURSDAY
Death in Paradise, BBC1, 9pm

Chances are you know the Death in Paradise format by now: a character is killed on the idyllic Caribbean island of Saint Marie; there's a host of eclectic associates who may have done the deed, and it's up to the likes of DI Humphrey Goodman (Kris Marshall), DS Camille Bordey (Sara Martins), and Officer Dwayne Myers (Danny John-Jules) to get to the bottom of the mystery.

The first victim of series four is plantation owner and businessman, Elias Thomson: he is brutally killed at his home during a group séance. The door to the room is firmly closed, so everyone at the scene is a suspect, but how did the killer go unseen when all participants – including Elias' kids, Daniel and Lucy – were holding hands throughout the séance?



Celebrity Big Brother: Live Launch, Wednesday, Channel 5, 9pm

FRIDAY
Xtreme Endurance Race to the Pole, Channel 5, 7pm
New series. Former rugby union player Richard Parks takes on a series of endurance events in preparation for his ultimate goal of becoming the fastest-ever person to ski unassisted to the South Pole from the coast of Antarctica. Richard's first gruelling challenge takes him to Nepal to participate in the Yak Attack, a mountain-bike race during which he battles against blistering heat, extreme cold, near-fatal collisions, sheer drops and extreme altitude on a course that winds 400 kilometres across the Himalayas.

The Musketeers, BBC1, 9pm
King Louis is tired of his cosseted royal lifestyle and demands to see things the way his carefree subjects do. But what starts out as a night of fun quickly descends into terror when he and d'Artagnan are mistaken for real commoners and kidnapped by the notorious criminal Lemaitre, who plans to sell them to Spain as slaves. It's left to the remaining three Musketeers to rescue the king and their comrade – can they save them from mortal danger and return Louis to the palace in time for his son's christening? One person who seems grateful for the king's absence is Rochefort.

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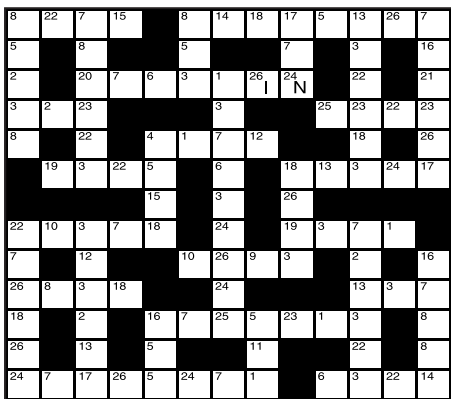
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

E	J	D	S	Y	T	I	Q	A	P	X	K	U
N	G	C	O	Z	F	L	H	B	M	R	W	V

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

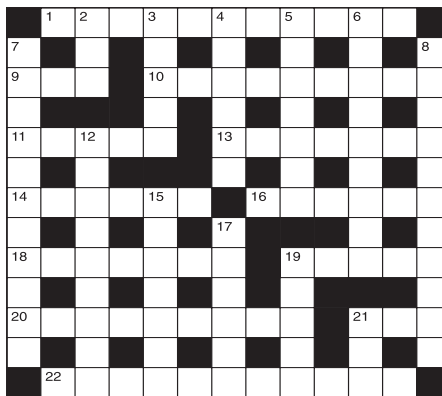
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Approve a human face (11)
9. One gets nothing for it (3)
10. Will it shoot itself? (9)
11. General secretaries? (5)
13. Fresh letters of support? (7)
14. Yet his talk is far from uplifting (3-3)
16. Specify how a token may be regarded? (6)
18. A dancer on tour perhaps (7)
19. It may be a nasty demonstration, though in play (5)
20. Taking in and finding very interesting (9)
21. Apt to have a sudden attack (3)
22. Scottish family needs it made secret (11)

Down

2. You have to do so (3)
3. Gets close in linear size (5)
4. Set out and consumed what was left? (6)
5. A smile's unambitious outcome (7)
6. Good barbers do it - only just in time (3,2,4)
7. Immediately erect a road (11)
8. The shooting of unknown persons? (11)
12. Sacking one ship in dreary surroundings (9)
15. Sold by chemists in Paris perhaps (7)
17. Possibly aspire to commend (6)
19. Seeing sense (5)
21. Cool an ardent admirer (3)



Quick Clues:

Across

1. Unwise (11)
9. Pinch (3)
10. Enchant (9)
11. Upright (5)
13. Chronicler (7)
14. Suit of woollen cloth (6)
16. Pious (6)
18. Intrigue (7)
19. Attack (5)
20. Garment-making (9)
21. Also (3)
22. Powerful (11)

Down

2. Doze (3)
3. Unsuitable (5)
4. Interior (6)
5. Copy (7)
6. Of one mind (9)
7. Barrenness (11)
8. Reinstatement (11)
12. Height (9)
15. Plunder (7)
17. Complete (6)
19. Should (5)
21. Beverage (3)

Sudoku

	6					7	
3			9	7	4		5
	5		2		9		
8	7		6	7		5	9
4	5						3
			1	8			
5		2	9	6		1	4
	1						9

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

7	4	1	2	3	5	9	6
2	5	8	9	7	6	1	3
6	3	9	1	6	4	2	7
9	6	3	4	2	7	5	1
1	8	2	3	5	9	4	6
5	7	4	8	6	1	3	9
4	9	7	6	1	2	8	5
3	2	5	7	9	8	6	4
8	1	6	5	4	3	7	2

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Pass; 3 Spyglass; 9 Learned; 10 Often; 11 Imprecations; 13 Turtle; 15 Aghast; 17 Rough diamond; 20 Crown; 21 Pension; 22 Disperse; 23 News. Down: 1 Palliate; 2 Sharp; 4 Pedlar; 5 Growing pains; 6 Antenna; 7 Sons; 8 Intelligence; 12 Students; 14 Plotous; 16 Adopt; 18 Opine; 19 Acid. QUICK - Across: 1 Sob; 3 Advocate; 9 Abscess; 10 Enue; 11 Dispossessed; 13 Rarest; 15 Recess; 17 Improbability; 20 Egret; 21 Ignored; 22 Fiendish; 23 Lend. Down: 1 Standard; 2 Basis; 4 Desist; 5 Overspending; 6 Austere; 7 Even; 8 Remonstrated; 12 Ascended; 14 Remorse; 16 Avoids; 18 Nurse; 19 Deaf.

Quiz

1. Which form of political corruption was named after US politician Elbridge Gerry?
2. Who received an Oscar for his performance in Going My Way?
3. In which country was Vivien Leigh born?
4. What type of creature is the firefly?
5. What did Hippolyte Mege-Mouries invent in 1889?
6. In which ocean are the Mariana Islands?
7. Which sci-fi author wrote the screenplay for 2001: A Space Odyssey?
8. What is the kernel of the tree Myristica fragrans called?
9. Which actor/dancer was born Frederick Austerlitz?
10. Which vehicle is named from the Hindi for 'Lord of the World'?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Lager; 2 Plaise; 3 Constantinople; 4 St Christopher; 5 Daniel Day-Lewis; 6 Chopin; 7 Daisy; 8 Duchess Of Kent; 9 Taurus; 10 Hispaniola.

Niner: INCUBATOR

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

97234 gives a bird,
818 gives a female animal,
365 gives a male animal.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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Fast Fiesta desirable

By Ian Donaldson

Nobody actually needs a car as fast as a Ferrari – or the more modest Ford tested here. But put your foot down in either and you'll want one, rather a lot.

It's the noise that does it first. And I'm not talking about Italy's most famous fast car either; the Ford makes sounds so seductive they tempt you to prod the throttle to hear them again.

The eager warble (from a mere three tiny cylinders) is addictive. But then so is the Fiesta itself, a special edition of Britain's most popular car and this time aimed at driver's who want fun without breaking the bank.

Ford already makes a fast Fiesta, with the potent ST that's proved a satisfying giant killer and starts from £17,250. It's tempting to call the car you see here an ST-lite, but that would do it an injustice.

It might cost less (not all that much less, to be honest) but there are other savings, with a reduced thirst for fuel, a much more friendly insurance rating (group 15 plays group 30) and less road tax – £20 versus £130 from year two.

You get less performance for the gentler assault on your pocket; the ST is properly fast, while the Red or Black Edition is simply lively. But you're most unlikely to complain after a good blast along a favourite road.

The poise and polish engineered into the way the Red Edition copes with our awful roads is enough to shame the efforts of too many rival car companies; the Fiesta

staying comfortably firm and totally in control.

Unlike a Ferrari, which will take you deep into dangerous speed territory before it starts to enjoy itself, the Fiesta will have you smiling whatever modest speed is displayed on its mildly fussy instrument panel.

This fastish Fiesta comes in two colours; a Red Edition for £15,995 and the Black Edition at £16,495.

The former is red all over, with a black roof and door mirrors, while the other one has that paint scheme in reverse, with the addition of a red lipstick smear around the radiator grille.

Flashy

And very smart the new paint job looks too, comfortably the right side of flashy but distinctive enough to draw looks of admiration from armies of young blokes who wish they earned enough to afford one. One day, chaps...

But it's the engine which dominates proceedings, producing an outrageous amount of power for something this tidily.

More horses for its tiny size, in fact, than any other car you can buy, Ferraris included.

Other Black and Red Edition features are black 17ins alloy wheels, leather wraps for steering wheel and gearchange gaiter and a leather trimmed handbrake with red stitching.

Oh, and floor mats with red around the edges too.

Missing is a gearbox with a sixth speed, leaving the engine spinning faster at a motorway cruise than it might otherwise.

In fact, the car is a fine M-way machine, humming along quietly at the legal limit so



'Ford Fiesta beats Ferrari.'

long as the surface is smooth – coarser roads make those bigger tyres hum a bit.

Fuel consumption will be miles away from the near 63mpg of the official figure – the test car showed 45.3mpg after it's week on test. But the ST would be much thirstier.

Like all Fiestas, the dashboard is beginning to look a bit over complicated; what was once a stylish homage to a mobile phone keypad is now too full of small but-

tons as phones have turned neat and minimal.

But this Ford is about driving pleasure. The nicely positive gearchange and steering without a trace of slack testify to the depth of development that's gone into this machine.

You can pay ten times as much for your motoring pleasure (are you listening Ferrari?) and your grin won't be any wider as you switch off the ignition. Promise.

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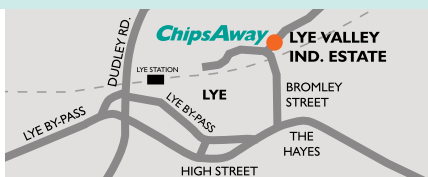
✓ Paintwork scratches

✓ Dented panels

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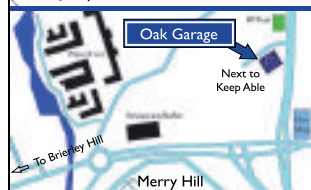
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Goofy and wacky but the Adam works well

By David Banner

The Vauxhall ADAM is undoubtedly one of the more interesting small car choices around. It's hugely customisable both inside and out and looks strong.

There are two 1.4-litre engines with either 87PS or 100PS. We tried the lower powered of the two. Both are mated to a fivespeed manual gearbox which again makes motorway journeys less than ideal as they could benefit from a longer gear for better refinement and economy.

The engine is 'tried and tested' which means it's a little long in the tooth and needs working to get the best from it. Go with the 87PS unit and you'll see 62mph appear on the clocks in 12.5 seconds on the way to a top speed of 110mph. In comparison, the 100PS engine's numbers are 11.5s and 125mph.

The ADAM incorporates a 'floating' roof which is visually disconnected from the body and which works particularly well with two-tone colour schemes.

It looks like no other Vauxhall but still incorporates a bunch of existing styling cues such as the Astra's wing-shaped chrome grille bar and the blade shape in the lower doors.

Like MINI, Vauxhall is looking to appeal to the customer's sense of individuality in the sheer amount of colour combinations and materials. Wheels range from 16 inches in size for entry-level cars and there are 17-inch options further up the range.

Unlike many cars which offer striking exterior designs but an interior that betrays a sudden curtailment of development budget, the cabin of the ADAM is, if anything, even bolder than the exterior. There's extensive use of body-coloured trim inserts, not only on the dashboard but also reaching along the centre console and onto the steering wheel and these can give the interior a real riotous personality. You can even swap them out for a different colour or finish if you get bored.

A seven-inch touch screen interface is the big point of interest from a technological perspective. It's both iPhone and Android compatible and can access internet-downloaded apps.

Where specified, the navigation and infotainment controls are all marshalled by the touch screen. There's even a choice of headlining, including an LED-lit starlight roof trim.

The exterior colours include 'I'll be Black', 'Papa don't Peach', 'Purple Fiction', 'James Blonde', 'Saturday White Fever' and 'Buzz Lightgreen'.

Trims

The ADAM has three trim levels, JAM (fashionable/colourful), GLAM (elegant/sophisticated) and SLAM (racy/sporty) and both 1.4-litre engines are available with all three trim levels.

JAM opens with air conditioning, a CD DAB radio with USB, AUX-in and Bluetooth, a leather trimmed steering wheel with deco elements, cruise control and infotainment control. Go for the GLAM and there's electronic climate control, front & rear LED lights, a fixed glazed sunroof and an exterior chrome pack. SLAM weighs in with 17-inch alloy wheels, Morrocana sports seats, and a two tone roof and darkened rear glass.

The latest generation ESP system is standard on all ADAMs and it also includes a Hill Start Assist function. That wonderful star-effect roof and a heated steering wheel are options that differentiate the Vauxhall from the run of the mill city car contenders and these surprise and delight features are key in a market that's not always led fully by upfront pricing.

Talking of which, prices for the 1.4-litre models open at just over £11,500 and top out at little over £14,000. What's more, the options prices have been kept very reasonable so should you really want to stamp your own impression on the car, it won't cost you the earth nor destroy the residual value of the car.

Unless, that is, you go for a distinctly questionable colour combination!

Right, pay attention here because things get a little more involved.

You remember I said there were two versions of the 1.4-litre engine. I lied. Only a little but there are in fact four. Each version of the 1.4-litre is available in either a standard guise or as an ecoFLEX version with Stop/Start. This clearly has the biggest impact on emissions.

Vauxhall reckons there are over a million different combinations of options – it's a car without parallel. Remember, there's something about coolness which involves taking yourself quite seriously and not everybody wants to do that with their car.

Sometimes it's fun to just be a bit goofy and not care and the ADAM fulfils that requirement perfectly with its wacky paint finishes, decals and interchangeable trim parts.



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Practicality and performance

By Sharon Walters

I have to put my hands up – I am a bit of a car snob when it comes to estates. Many of the family orientated and middle of the road ones are, well, just plain boring and dull. Dull to look at because they are just the saloon version with a bit added on without thought to style, and to drive. Although, don't get me wrong, they do just what they are intended to.

Move up the price scale and there are some great estates. Ones that look fantastic because more thought has gone into the design and ones which are so pleasing to get behind the wheel of and hit the road.

There are some exceptions, however, and the 308 SW from Peugeot is one. It is based on the multi award winning 308 which is currently European Car of the Year – an award that was very well deserved.

The Peugeot 308 SW is that rarity – a compact estate car

that not only looks good but is practical too. It also has a classy interior, a state-of-the-art chassis and excellent efficiency numbers.

Forget what you thought you knew about small estates. This one comes with a rare injection of desirability. And indeed attracted high praise indeed from one of my friends who is even more picky about her cars!

The 308 SW rides on the same chassis as the hatch and the ride is refined with a relaxed gait. There's no bouncing about even on the single and rather off the beaten track roads the sat nav took me to during a trip to the Forest of Dean. The electrically-assisted power steering is geared towards ease of use rather than detailed feedback but perhaps that's just as well. It makes the 308 SW very comfortable around town in the sort of usage it will mostly see. And I like the compact steering wheel which makes it feel quite sporty.

Highly

The petrol engine line up is based around a PureTech 1.2-litre e-THP three-cylinder engine offering either 110 or 130bhp. The diesel option is a 1.6-litre turbo with a base version with 92bhp or an e-HDi model with 115bhp and

Stop-Start. Next up are the new generation BlueHDI diesels, either a 1.6 with 120bhp or a 2.0-litre unit with 150bhp, the latter with the option of auto transmission.

It's hardly surprising that the 308 SW scores highly as Peugeot has a track record in this sector. Since the arrival of the 304 in 1969, every generation of the 300 series has included an estate variant and estates tend to mop up around 10 per cent of C-segment cars. This one might account for a little more than one in ten Peugeot 308 sales. There's usually a lot of nonsense spoken by car stylists but the buzzwords around the 308 SW really do ring true. Stretched, slender, fluid and dynamic, it's anything but your usual hatchback with an afterthought of a bigger boot rather clumsily attached.

There's plenty of space in the back, 660-litres, which includes 70-litres of storage under the floor. Fold down the Magic Flat rear seats which allow instant folding of both parts of the rear seat which provide a flat floor and 1,660-litres of luggage space. Space and practicality are enhanced by the vertical side walls which have minimal wheel arch intrusion. Plus the load sill is among the lowest of any estate car. Prices start from around £17,000 and all models include Bluetooth, air conditioning and a DAB radio. One of the biggest attractions of the interior is the 9.7-inch multi-function

infotainment touchscreen but you don't get that on the entry Access level.

The range-topping Feline model gets leather and Alcantara seats, or you can pay a bit more and go for full leather. This features subtle stitching, some impressive fluting and a particularly comfortable shape. The optional electric adjustment includes a variable massage function. Open the cover on the panoramic full-length glass roof and you feel you are in a swanky limo.

Minus point for me is the electric parking brake – perhaps it's an age thing about feeling uncomfortable with it – but the one fitted to the 308 is better than others.

Thanks to a weight-loss programme the car has less to do and the result is better fuel economy and those nasty emissions.

No diesel engine in the 308 SW range emits more than 111g/km. The new BlueHDI 1.6-litre 120bhp diesel which, when linked to a six-speed manual gearbox, records a combined cycle fuel consumption figure of some 88.3mpg and emissions of 85g/km; a record in the segment.

The Peugeot 308 SW is that rarest of things; a compact estate with genuine style.

If you want style, practicality, performance and space in one option the 308 SW may just be up your street.

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WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned lifts from £799. New available. 01952 405337/07897 273617

World of Mobility

Manual Wheelchairs from £110
and Power from £1,200

SCOOTERS/ ELECTRIC BEDS
STAIRLIFTS FROM £1,400 FITTED

We offer excellent customer service and aftercare on all our products.

Showroom 108C Brettell Lane, Ambleside Stourbridge
DYS 4BS or call 01384 378252
OPEN MON-SAT 9-5 pm FREE PARKING AT REAR

**BUY LOCAL
SELL LOCAL**

Place your items for sale with great offers from the Express & Star and reach over half a million people*.

We don't have any hidden fees, expensive delivery charges or commission payments - just a great service, at great value for money enabling you to buy and sell locally.

Contact us today to place your advert

TELEPHONE - 01902 317878
ON LINE - www.expressandstar.com/bookanad
IN PERSON - At your local Express & Star office

*SOURCE: Jicreg 01.10.2012. Private advertisers only.

Buy Local, Sell Local **Classified Ads**

2

Leisure Time

bikes

MOUNTAIN BIKE 14" frame, double suspension, disc brakes, £100. 07973 847763.

caravans / motorhomes

LET US SELL YOUR CARAVAN for you and achieve the best possible price. Seven Valley Leisure, Stourbridge DY8 4HP. 01384 390183

caravans wanted

ALL CARAVANS WANTED
Any Age or Condition
CASH
WAITING
Immediate collection
Call Bob on 07787 833833

jumble sales / fetes

BRIC-A-BRAC FAIR
Sunday 28th December
KINVER
COMMUNITY CENTRE
10.30am - 4pm
Tel: 01952 588414

music shop

COMPLETE PA system, ideal for budding singer. £300 ono. 07981 523222.

GROUP GEAR FOR SALE Amps, speakers, combo's, stands, radio mike, tenor saxophone. Inquiries 01902 331599 or 07870 335774.

Free Ads

IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
For items up to £250.
Online at
[www.expressandstar.com/
bookanad](http://www.expressandstar.com/bookanad)

mind, body & soul

clairvoyance

CLAIRVOYANT JOHN STARKEY. Private appointments, home visits and telephone readings. Call 01902 334224. www.john-starkey.com.

psychics

TWISTED - WILLOWS PSYCHIC Telephone reading 0906 400 3555

weddings

car hire

A ALL YEAR DISCOUNT! White Rolls Cloud, Shadow & Vintage with free hire of Jaguar. 01384 236188 / 07970 717669 www.elite-wedding-services.maxig.net

3

Home & Services

furniture

KING SIZE electric bed, lifts each side separately, can split into single. £250. 07506 660317.

BFC FURNITURE MELTDOWN SALE NOW IN FULL SWING

Open Everyday 10am-6pm
Sunday 10-4
HUGE SAVINGS

Single mats from £19
Divan beds from £49
Ortho mats from £99
Memory foam mats from £99
Faux leather bed frames from £99
Double beds from £199
Bunk frames from £99
Metal fashion bed frames from £49
Recliner sofas
MANY HALF PRICE
Leather and fabric chairs from £29
Sofas from £99
Suites from £249

BFC FACTORY OUTLET
CONEYCRE ROAD IND EST,
GREAT BRIDGE RD, TIVTON DY4 7RG.
2 MINS FROM NEW
TESCO & TOBY GARVARY
0121 557 6885
OPEN 7 DAYS - MON-SAT 10-6, SUN 10-4.
TWO LEATHER chairs, black, few weeks old, genuine reason for sale. Was £1,400 Bargain £800. 01902 403154.

household appliances

COAL EFFECT, 3kw Franco Beige gas stove, excellent condition. £100. 01902 895382.

items wanted

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

A ABSOLUTELY BEST price given for single items or houses cleared. Antique, old, reproduction. Call 01384 482155 or 07802 475693.

ALL BOXED / LOOSE RAILWAY COLLECTIONS WANTED
ANY GAUGE OR AGE
Also live steam, also Diecast, Dinky, Corgi, Spot On. Guaranteed top cash prices paid!!
0121 602 2569/07891 713547.
thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com

items for sale

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

CAST IRON FIRES x 2, with surrounds, £350 for both. 07973 847763.

t.v. / home entertainment

AERIAL & TV SPECIALISTS
Free Estimates on any TV Repairs, Plasma, LCD, 3D, LED, Projection. All areas covered 8 till late. 7 days. Digital aerials, Sky installation. Wall mounts & TV setups.
07850 330251

service

specialists at your service

aerials

AA DIGITAL AERIALS
1 aerial into 2 rooms £90
1 aerial into 4 rooms £130
Work Guaranteed
Same Day Service
01902 858191
01384 429166
01543 439095
01922 716029
07833 738857

alarms/security

PREMIER ALARMS
Supplied and Fitted £195
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

blinds

AB-Blinds
Super 6
6 Child Safe Verticals
Fitted from only £169
Call 0800 0347111
www.ab-blinds.co.uk

damp proof control

DAMP, CONDENSATION, WOOD-WORM, dry-rot control. 40 years exp. Free surveys. 01902 324727.

double glazing

UPVC BACK DOORS from £299, front doors from £389 fitted. Windows/Fascia's, 01922 442720.

driveways & patios

PaveWAYS
Paving your way
25% OFF WITH THIS ADVERT

Driveways, Patios, Landscaping Specialists
• NO DEPOSIT • PAY ON COMPLETION
5yr guarantee,
fully insured and registered company
01902 275275
www.pavewaysuk.co.uk

electrical services

STEVE JONES ELECTRICAL
Rewires/sockets/fuse boards etc. All domestic and commercial work. 07786 858977/01902 846167.

fencing

Chestnut Sheds and Fencing
Quality wooden buildings at great prices
Sheds built to customer specifications, any size deluxe fence panels, fitting available. All manufactured at our premises.
www.chestnutshedsandfencing.co.uk
01384 913422

gardening services

For all your Patio's, Turfing, Decking, treework and Root grinding...

Prestwood FENCING & LANDSCAPING
Call us on: 01384 273586 or 07947 879403 or visit www.prestwoodfencing.co.uk for more details

JEZ'S GARDEN SERVICES
Lawns cut, Borders, Garden clearances
Trees lopped and shaped
Fencing, Slabbing...
Please call: 01384 403353 or 07929 600638

house clearances

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. 07852 172641 / 07710 360327

lock services

SECURE LOCKS Lock replacement doors/windows BS3621 insurance approved Closers/Fire doors, panic bars 07840467642 / 0793888970

logs

HARDWOOD/ SOFTWOOD SEASONED LOGS FOR SALE
Loads/Bulk Bags from £50. Delivery available
01902 882115 / 07768 392009
www.sandyfieldtreeservices.co.uk

painters / decorators

LOVE 2 WALLPAPER
Reliable & Friendly, Professional Female Painter and Decorator
Wallpaper is my speciality, competitive prices. For the Perfect Finish with minimum hassle. Painting & Coating Work Undertaken
01384 287577 or 07812 484194

plumbing & heating

Midland Energy Solutions
All plumbing, heating and gas work.
Call Luke on
01902 488770
07584 062483

reclaimed materials

Trade Suppliers of Traditional Reclaimed Building Materials
Demolition services available
Reclaimed tile, slate and brick bought and sold.
Tel: 01384 234592
Mobile: 07896 059141
Email: andybarker63@hotmail.co.uk
www.abrreclamation.co.uk

D S MARSH PLUMBING
All aspects of plumbing work undertaken.
Heating, Gaswork.
Call Steve: 0796 270745 or Dan: 07807 818730

plastering

P.D.P PLASTERING & TILING
All aspects of plastering & Tiling, reliable, professional service
Call Pete: 07505662778
www.pdpplastering.com

removals

A & M CHEAP REMOVALS
Local Careful Firm
Full or Part loads
Call Don:
0800 587 0377
or 07749 941319

A1 KINGSWINFORD REMOVALS & HOUSE CLEARANCES

Single items, Full houses, Offices etc
Recession rates, FREE QUOTES
We take the stress away
40 years experience
07966 281957

A MAN WITH A VAN Single items, flat/house removals/clearances, local/nationwide. Call Steve 0121 422 2999 or 07815 043724

ALAN. RAINBOW COURIERS Parcels / Pallets, Local / Distance, Business/Domestic. 07884 353732

CALL DEAN! Business/Domestic, Deliveries/Relocation/full house 1 item 07429 453209 / 01902 830870 / 01384 940260 / 01922 263460.

CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN. Removals, clearances. Items large or small. Call: 01902 741546 or 07889 638882.

roofing

MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 338889 / 07580 465443

PREMIER ROOFING New Roofs, Repairs, Fascias & Gutters. Call: 0121 532 7601 or 07875 387445.

woodburners and stoves

WOODBURNING / MULTIFUEL Stoves, Flues, installation. Free surveys. Stourbridge 01384 390183. severnvalleystoves.com

4

Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if horses have the required Passport information.
BAY COB. Good to Handle. Bargain at £75.
Telephone 07761 379384.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

pets corner

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS
All neutered, inoculated and chipped.
Call Greyhound Trust
01922 412212 or
www.rgtwolverhampton.co.uk

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer.

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with its Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

PEDIGREE CHIHUAHUA puppies, 3-6 months, vaccinated, parents can be seen. 0121 453 1354.

PIGEONS WANTED Exhibition show bench and performing breeds, will collect where possible. Telephone 07885 119133.

YORKSHIRE TERRIER PUPPIES Home reared, full pedigree, vet checked. Deposit secures. £295. Telephone 07581 184498.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

business directory

accountants

ACCOUNTANCY and Taxation services for Small Businesses. Fixed fees. Call 01902 343200

ACCOUNTS, BOOK KEEPING, PAYROLL, VAT New start-ups welcome. Phone Clover on: 01384 459714 or 07715 510749.

6 Property

accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

properties wanted

LOCAL INVESTOR can pay 10% more than all these guys. Call Alex 07729 297901

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

7 Jobs

courses

BILLY THOMAS
DSA QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS
HGV C+E (ARTIC) & C (RIGID)
7.5T (C1) SMALL LORRY
CAR & TRAILER (B+E)
MINIBUS (D1)
1-2-1 TRAINING
CPC TRAINING & ADP
CPC Periodic Training for PCV & LGV
from 7hr blocks - Full 35hrs
01902 744726 / 07831 646601

TOP GEAR Driver Training

- LGV / PCV Training
- 1-1 Gold Standard tuition
- Free Assessments
- CPC Courses
- Driver Medicals
- Caravan & Horse Box Tuition available

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www.topgear-igv.com

BIRMINGHAM 21-22 FEBRUARY
COVENTRY 18-19 MARCH
TAMWORTH 8-9 APRIL

Learn how to take blood TRAIN AS A PHLEBOTOMIST

Introduction to Phlebotomy
♦ TWO DAY ACCREDITED COURSES
♦ NATIONALLY RECOGNISED
HIGH DEMAND IN HOSPITALS, G.P. SURGERIES, COMMUNITY, PRIVATE SECTOR, MILITARY, ETC.

Book online or more info: www.geopace.com
No previous experience or qualifications required

ELL SAFE DRIVING FOR LIFE
"QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS"

FREE ASSESSMENTS • FREE THEORY TEST TRAINING

HGV, PCV, ALL LICENCE CATEGORIES, DRIVER CPC COURSES & TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT COURSES

CALL FOR A BROCHURE OR POP IN AND SEE US

01902 312800
www.hgvdrivertraining.co.uk

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Every Thursday our special jobs section is packed with the week's latest vacancies.

Make sure you get your copy - it might be just what you've been waiting for.

jobs.expressandstar.com
REAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU

8

Motoring

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

NISSAN PRIMERA 51 plate, MoT June 15, low mileage 79,500, clean, good condition, 2 previous owners, £875 ono. 07903 236678.

PEUGEOT 106 1.1, 3-dr, 2002, 1 owner from new. Only 12,000 miles. Long MoT. Electric windows, PAS, £1,095 o.n.o. 07779 455916.

PEUGEOT 206 diesel, 2001, very nice condition, 1 owner from new, FSH, MoT, £795 ono. 07867 685569.

ROVER METRO Knightsbridge, 3Dr and 5Dr, mechanically good, needs rear wheel arches for MoT, £185 each. 07980 003884 Walsall.

VAUXHALL ASTRA Expression, good working condition, 54,000 miles, £200 ono. 01384 75938.

cars over £1500

FORD KA 2010, blue, 1.2, 9 months MoT, 44k miles, low tax / insurance, CD, good condition, 2 lady owners, £4,250 ono. 07917 696250.

FORD KUGA Titanium, TDCi 163, diesel, 2.0, white, 2012, 34,500 miles, £14,500 o.n.o. 07702 012347 Dudley.

FORD FIESTA 1.4TDCi

STYLE
59 plate, 68,000 miles, low insurance group/tax, 12 months MoT, fsh, air con, CD aux input, excellent condition.
£4,400 ono.
Telephone 07971 533257 (Wombourne area).

PEUGEOT 107, 2010, £20 Tax, 60 mpg, spotless throughout, low miles. This car is like new. 1st to see will buy. £3,500. 07887 691166



PORSCHE BOXSTER

Low mileage
Pristine condition.
Call for more details.
Reduced to £8,995.
Telephone 07745 025823.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXi, 07 Reg, lady owner, good condition, £3,000 o.n.o. 07754 737895.

classic cars

CLASSIC CARS WANTED
Private cash buyer
Instant cash settlement.
Any age, any condition.
Call Market Drayton.
01630 652993.

spares & accessories

clutches / brakes / gearboxes

A CLUTCH CHANGE MOBILE 30 yrs experience

ALL AREAS COVERED

Call Bob
01384 251328 or
07972 169554 anytime

For Example:
Citroen C1, C2, C3
Hyundai 110
Toyota Yaris
Clio & Micras
Ring for quotes on others!

mobile mechanics

MOBILE MECHANICS Service & repairs. Headgasket, clutches and cambelts. 07747 848469.

driving tuition

Homer's
Mini, Clio, Corsa, Fiesta, Punto, 207, KA, Fiat 500, Yaris.
10 Hours £98! Five Hours £50!
2 Hours £20! All Areas Covered
MALE & FEMALE INSTRUCTORS
MANUAL & AUTOMATIC
ADI/POI REQUIRED. Gift vouchers available.
07970 200066 / 01922 780260
01562 870050 / 01384 234954
01543 660120 / 0121 564 0090
01902 580065
www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk

scrap vehicles

A B SPARES
Pays More
All Scrap Cars & Vans Wanted
Anything Considered
Free Collection
Scrap It Legally CDD. Given Instant Payment.
01902 483110 / 0121 525 5813 daytime
01902 659775 evenings

vehicles wanted

alan reed cars

Used cars wanted for cash
Top prices paid. HP settled.
Buyer could call.
01562 711083 /
07831 245313

CROWN MOTORS Guarantee best cash price for unwanted cars/vans. 07585 664389 / 07903 549849.

BUY LOCAL SELL LOCAL

01902 317878
ClassifiedAds

9

Local Information

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to
Marie Hogg on
01902 713146
or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

10

Personals

general

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

FreeAds

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

*Advertise any item **FREE** up to the value of **£250**, simply fill out the details below or book online at www.expressandstar.com/bookanad

ADVERT DETAILS - (ONE WORD PER BOX, 12 WORDS IN TOTAL)

ADVERT 1			
ADVERT 2			

Name: _____ Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Tel No: _____

Please send to: ClassifiedAds, Express & Star, 51-53 Queen St, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES.

IT'S ABSOLUTELY FREE

*Private advertisers only, no guns, pets, or livestock. Limited time only
Free adverts are published within 7 days of receipt, in-paper and online and are limited to 3 lines maximum

Buy Local, Sell Local
01902 317878

ClassifiedAds

Get Up to 100% For Your House - Fast!

- ✓ Any property. Any condition. Anywhere
- ✓ Get up to 100% of the market value
- ✓ Free valuation. Free consultation
- ✓ 100% Confidential. No obligation

Fast Sale
Maximum Value

The Property
Ombudsman
SALES

UP TO
100%
PAID

SOLD

NO OBLIGATION
FREE CONSULTATION

24/7 Helpline
CALL NOW
0800 092 5743
01902 489 500

YellowSpringbok.co.uk



Here's how to use your dating service ...

Place your advert call:
0844 887 2293

and follow the simple instructions

To Place your ad
by text

Simply text **REG** followed by
your first name, date of birth,
area and your advert (max 155
characters) and send to **80098**
FREE Standard Network rates apply.

To Reply to members
from your landline call:
0906 500 3955
calls cost £1.53 per min

Have the adverts 6-digit box no
written down and do key-it-in
promptly when asked. Don't forget
to leave contact details for replies.

For a quicker service from your
mobile call:**0906 500 5650**
calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network charges

Or Text...**REPLY26** (leave a space) the six-digit box
number (leave a space) and then enter your
message & send to 80098 eg: **REPLY26123456 hi**
get in touch... then send to 80098 Successfully
forwarded messages cost £1.50 per message (Max
160 characters). You must exchange 7 messages each
before you can swap contact details. Messages may
be moderated for your safety and security.

YOUR local dating service, run by the
dating experts who have been established
since 1990. REAL people in YOUR area..

Date **ONLINE**
YOU can now
date online or
via your **mobile**

Simply VISIT us
at:

http://dating.expressandstar.com
http://dating.expressandstar.com

Been left a message?
Pickup your replies
on:
0906 500 3957
calls cost £1.53 per min

Women seeking men

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53
per minute plus network ex-
tras. Texts cost £1.50 per mes-
sage sent.

AMANDA 5ft 4ins slim fit attractive, enjoys
the outdoors, nice wine, theatre etc. seeking
romantic considerate soul mate to broaden
my horizons. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:
415391 ♂

LUCY, broadminded 18yrs seeks discreet fun
with men any age. Aca. Tel No: 0905 002
1941 Box No: 365051

SAM attractive single mum who really enjoys
life and likes to be happy WLTm genuine
single male/dad for mutual companionship,
dates in/out and ftc. Tel No: 0906 500 3955
Box No: 415381 ♂

SEXY brunetted, mid 20's busy, adventurous
broad minded seeks no strings fun. Tel No:
0905 002 1949 Box No: 361739

KAREN medium build, blonde hair, 5ft 5ins,
seeks male, N/S, loving, caring and
understanding. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box
No: 415429 ♂

SALLY, 38yrs large cuddly lady seeks slim
mum for discreet meetings. Text Only
4550193 ♂

23YR old Asian female, seeks sugar daddy,
any age for fun and much more. Tel No: 0906
500 3955 Box No: 415367 ♂

TRUDY 36yrs, wltm broadminded men of any
age/area for daytime meetings. Text Only
4550194 ♂

YOUNG looking female, likes rock music,
concerts, theatre, seeks Rock male to share
similar interests for relationship. Tel No: 0906
500 3955 Box No: 415249 ♂

MELANIE, 38, slim, blonde and bored. Call
if you want no strings fun. Text Only 4550198

MANDY very attractive, slim single mum
36yrs, employed, OHAC, looking to share
some quality times with similar genuine kind
hearted and social male/dad. Tel No: 0906 500
3955 Box No: 415409 ♂

JENNI, 52 bored housewife wants no strings
fun with younger chap. Text Only 4550197 ♂

GEM 34yr old pretty brunette with lovely big
eyes and nice skin, many interests, WLTm
kind tallish male, 30-50yrs for serious
relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:
415571 ♂

50 year old widow, love reading, walking,
horse riding, clay shooting, swimming & keep
fit, 5ft 5" blond hair, gosh looking for similar
male. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4435776

SYLVIA attractive blonde size 12 45yr old
female looking for genuine companionship,
someone to spend quality times with, enjoy
music and cosy times together. Tel No: 0906
500 3955 Box No: 415543 ♂

FEMALE looking for male any age for fun,
meet ups, friendship and take it from there.
Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4550576 ♂

HOME alone far too often, attractive bubbly
fun good time girl 52yrs seeking male 30-
50yrs for broadminded daytime fun. Let's rid
the boredom! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box
No: 415523 ♂

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored,
seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls
answered. Tel No: 0905 002 1883 Box No:
413399

SUE attractive, independent, confident
female, sporty, petite, loves the Arts, good
books, looking for romantic, sensitive nice guy
for nice times together. Tel No: 0906 500
3955 Box No: 415501 ♂

LUCY, 32yrs, blonde lady seeks naughty
boys of any age for no strings fun. Tel No:
0905 002 1887 Box No: 413443

KAREN medium build, blonde hair, 5ft 5ins,
seeks male, 50-58, GSOH, loving, caring and
understanding. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box
No: 415429 ♂

ADVENTUROUS sexy lady, 38yrs, married
but seeks no strings fun with discreet man,
any age. I'm tall, slim and dominant. Aca. Tel
No: 0905 002 1937 Box No: 415301

CUSTOMER SUPPORT

Call 0207 720 7130 Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm
or email us at support@jmediauk.co.uk

CALL CHARGES: DATING 18+ and have the bill payer's permission. 090 calls cost £1.53 per min. plus network charges. Calls from Mobiles will be considerably higher. Calls are recorded and may appear on your bill. TEXT: Text alerts are charged at £1.50 per text. To unsubscribe to text alerts, text DATING STOP to 63333. To cancel free match alerts, text STOP to 07781474042. For full T&Cs go to www.localdates-terms.co.uk. REPLY BY TEXT: 80098/89990 costs £1.50 per SMS received (max 150 characters). Guaranteed to receive 1 - 4 messages for each message you send. Service only available where phone icon show. Messages are moderated. Minimum 7 messages must be sent before contact details can be exchanged. This service is not computer generated. All messages are responded to by real service users. No meetings can be guaranteed. If arranging a meeting be sure to choose a public space and do not give personal details to people you have not met. Some advertisers on this page come from our national database. To STOP text stop to 80098/89990. Service provided by No Goats Ltd. Help: 0207 720 7130. ALL SERVICES: By texting any shortcode you consent to the owner of that shortcode sending you the occasional marketing message to opt out of receiving these send NO INFO to 80098. DATA PROTECTION: Service provided by JMedia UK Ltd, SW4 7BX, 0207 720 7130. We will collect the details you provide and may send you details of other services and events operated by us. We may pass your details onto this newspaper for marketing or PhonePayPlus for regulatory purposes. W/C 29/12/14

Try it..
You'll
love it!

Our NEW MatchMaker service
makes meeting people easy!
TRY IT FOR FREE!
Matchmaker does all the hard work
for you. We connect you with other
members in your area so no match
your interests to take the stress out
of meeting new people.
SIMPLY TEXT MATCH TO 89990

First 3 messages received are free; thereafter £1.50.
Text STOP to 89990 to exit at any time.

ROSA 27 sexy seniorita seeking older
handsome prince charming to whisk me off
my feet, enjoy fun times, improve my English
and fall in love with. Age/race unimportant. Tel
No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412927 ♂

RITA attractive blonde with a very kind heart
seeks special man to share my life with.
Please get in touch if like me you are fed up
with always being the single friend. Tel No:
0906 500 3955 Box No: 412987 ♂

JAN 58f8ins slim pretty lady in great shape,
open-minded, laidback, GSOH, OHAC, many
interests, WLTm someone for cuddling up
with and to share good and bad times. Aca. Tel
No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412931 ♂

ANN slim attractive N/S lady who is easy to
get along with, looking for romantic interesting
man for new adventures together, hopefully ftc.
Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412911 ♂

VICKY 37yr professional, mum to one,
sensual and very attractive, looking for a real
man, tall, fit, sincere and passionate to enjoy
each other's company. Tel No: 0906 500
3955 Box No: 411695 ♂

SONYA slim attractive vibrant lady with
GSOH, social nature, fit/attractive, WLTm N/S
male up to 60yrs for romantic genuine
respectful relationship, loving. Tel No: 0906
500 3955 Box No: 413441 ♂

EMMA petite slim blue eyed blonde 22yrs,
likes cinema, dancing/slim, much chills,
seeking easygoing male for fun and good
times but nothing serious. Tel No: 0906 500
3955 Box No: 413207 ♂

EUROPEAN beauty romantic, caring,
attentive, looking for loving male to enjoy
warm loving relationship with, call me to find
out more. Aca. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box
No: 413013 ♂

KAREN 34 blue/green eyed size 12 attractive
brunette who loves pubs, cosy nights in, kids,
seeking special honest guy/dad for poss. ftc.
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JEAN petite female who enjoys golf, days
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big heart. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:
412359 ♂

LORRAINE 5ft 9ins, slim, 57, nurse, looking
for someone to look after me. Tel No: 0906
500 3955 Box No: 410543

MIXED raced lady, 34, widely travelled,
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N/S single dad. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box
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3955 Box No: 412167 ♂

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broadminded and ready to be put in your
place? Curious to find out more? Call me. Tel
No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410637 ♂

LUCY beautiful bubbly busty blonde 32yrs,
seeking naughty boy to enjoy the fun side of
life with, age, status and looks unimportant.
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LINDA single and living alone, attractive,
young looking, bubbly WLTm similar young at
heart companion to be close with, enjoy chats
and romantic dates. Tel No: 0906 500 3955
Box No: 410119 ♂

WIDOW 68, 5ft 10ins, medium build, attractive,
likes walks, reading, holidays, seeks sincere,
N/S male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:
411745

JEAN young at heart lady, active, 70 plus,
N/S, GSOH, likes walks, gardening, outings,
WLTm sincere, caring male, 69-74 for
companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box
No: 411711

TINA sexy black female looking for healthy
distractions with fun adult companion,
interested? You won't be disappointed, give
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LYNNE young looking attractive Indian female
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EMMIE 50, attractive brunetted, 5ft 3ins,
OHAC, likes country walks, music, reading,
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enjoys meals in/out etc, not necessarily
looking for Mr Right as Mr Wrong or even Mr
Right now could be fun! Call me. Tel No: 0906
500 3955 Box No: 411049 ♂

ANGIE attractive slim blonde just looking for
a lovely spontaneous guy who like me just
wants good company and a nice relationship.
Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410641 ♂

KATHERINE 35yr old outgoing single female
looking to enjoy dates with similar male also
looking for fun times in or out. Age, looks
unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:
410565 ♂

PAULINE attractive divorced female with no
ties, employed with my own home, likes
nights in/out, lots of ftc to give to the right
person, call me for a chat, maybe more. Tel
No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411039 ♂

JEN attractive sensual petite blonde with
OHAC seeks confident fit professional male
to enjoy and share good times, if that's you
please get in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box
No: 410949 ♂

TRUSTWORTHY fit, active, caring, N/S, easy
going male, 68, GSOH, seeks warm, genuine
lady, 59-72 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955
Box No: 414151

EXTREMELY genuine! Life's true gent, 54,
slim, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, short hair, N/S,
GSOH, seeks female, 41-52, Tel No: 0906
500 3955 Box No: 413925 ♂

JOHN 40's, tall, athletic, active, adventurous,
cheeky, tactile, fun, own teeth, loves life,
seeks similar fun female. Tel No: 0906 500
3955 Box No: 414067 ♂

43YR old slim, dark haired, creative,
adventurous, likes music, cycling and
photography, seeks likeminded female to
share fun and happiness with. Tel No: 0906
500 3955 Box No: 352753

SEAN 47, 5ft 8ins, average looks, seeking
genuine, honest, caring female. Tel No: 0906
500 3955 Box No: 413945 ♂

PHIL 57, medium build, seeks female for
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3955 Box No: 413703

ROBERT 59, N/S, fit, slim, seeks attractive
slim female for discreet no strings friendship
and fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:
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fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413757

STEPHEN 58, good looking, likes art, travel,
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Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412633 ♂

PHIL 57, OHAC, discreet, seeks no strings
fun with younger female. Tel No: 0906 500
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PROFESSIONAL male, 49 looking for fun
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gent, medium build, GSOH, good heart
essential, seeks equivalent lady, 45-60 for
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3955 Box No: 414311

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honest, N/S, seeks female with similar
qualities. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:
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JAMES, hard working single dad, late 30's
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MALE seeking fun bubbly female, 21-30. Tel
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spontaneous, sensual female, 50-65 for adult
fun and good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955
Box No: 415253 ♂

GENUINE guy looking for uncomplicated fun
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Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4202609 ♂

GENTLEMAN retired, N/S, seeking lady for
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EXTREMELY genuine! Life's true gent, 54,
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GSOH, seeks female, 41-52, Tel No: 0906
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JOHN 40's, tall, athletic, active, adventurous,
cheeky, tactile, fun, own teeth, loves life,
seeks similar fun female. Tel No: 0906 500
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43YR old slim, dark haired, creative,
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fun and weekends away. Tel No: 0906 500
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ROBERT 59, N/S, fit, slim, seeks attractive
slim female for discreet no strings friendship
and fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:
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STEPHEN 58, good looking, likes art, travel,
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PROFESSIONAL male, 49 looking for fun
and good times with voluptuous lady. Text
Only Mailbox Box No: 4473440 ♂

GARY 6ft 2ins, dark

Teenager latest to sign for Brummies

TEENAGE hot-shot Alex Wilson is the latest new signing for Birmingham's return to racing next year. Wilson, aged 16, is highly rated by stand-in boss Phil Morris who is putting the Perry Barr side together for the club's new era which starts in March.

He was rider of the year for Sheffield's Tiger Cubs development side last season and now feels ready to make the step up to regular National League racing.

Said Morris: "He's a very level headed lad with a good family backing him and I'm again confident he will do a good job for the Brummies."

"I'm sure people will have questions about tracking three riders new to the National League but with my connections and benefit of knowledge built up working with the British youth set up I feel this trio of riders will more than hold their own against other NL teams."

Wilson joins Adam Ellis, Tom Perry, Zach Wajtknecht and Harvie Banks – son of former Hackney rider Trevor Banks – in the Perry Barr side for the new season.

"It's very important that the bottom end of the team is right," said Morris.

Fans urged to snap up tickets

APPLICATION forms for season tickets have been sent out to supporters ahead of Birmingham's return to the tapes in 2015.

The club says any commercial interest in sponsorship or suggestions from fans will be very much welcomed.

Meanwhile, a form is being made available for supporters making new applications for season tickets. Supporters will be able to download the form online and return it via post to: Birmingham Speedway, PO Box 5267, Bedworth, Warwickshire, CV12 2BP.

The Brummies are returning to the track in search of title glory just months after their future was under serious threat.

Geddes' golden goal goes global



Sean Geddes scores his "rabona" goal

A FACTORY worker from the Black Country became an internet sensation with a wonder goal seen by millions of football fans across the world.

Former Walsall and Stourbridge player Sean Geddes netted one of the goals of the season with his 'rabona' effort against Barrow.

The 22-year-old from West Bromwich wrapped his right foot around the back of his left leg to chip the keeper from the edge of the penalty area.

Now at Worcester City, Geddes was also part of the longest penalty shoot-out in

Football

FA Cup history. He was on target both in the regulation time and from the spot, in the epic 14-13 second round defeat against League One Scunthorpe. He had previously struck in the shock first round defeat of former winners Coventry City.

Footage of the goal shown by Worcester City through Youtube had 5,000 views in the first 10 hours of going online, going global soon after.

Geddes works as a lathe turner at the

engineering firm A&M EDM in Smethwick which makes Formula One and aircraft parts. He said: "I couldn't believe it, it is mad how people have suddenly picked up on it," he said.

"I have got a friend in Norway and he said you are all over the TV."

Worcester City FC director Rich Widdowson added it had helped to put the club on the map and knew it would be a sensation.

"When you saw it you knew it was a great goal," he said. "We thought it was going to be seen global once it got out."

"It has been the talk of the club," he said.

Kettle on the boil to earn points for Yeltz

Halesowen Town 2 Skelmersdale United 0
CENTRAL defender Joel Kettle struck twice within the first four minutes against league leaders Skelmersdale to maintain Halesowen's impressive run of form.

Manager John Hill was delighted with another clean sheet as his confident squad passed another big test with flying colours.

"We learned from meeting Skelmersdale in our first game of the season and pressed them high up the pitch as planned and then protected our lead," he said.

Kettle rose to head Halesowen ahead with the first chance of the game in the second minute from an Aaron Griffiths corner.

Shell-shocked Skelmersdale's defence switched off again as the Yeltz soon doubled their lead after just four minutes when Kettle capitalised to slot home after Ben Haseley's initial shot was saved by goalkeeper Zac Hibbert.

Curled

Valter Fernandes and Connor McCarthy both hit efforts wide for the visitors but the Yeltz kept up the work-rate to protect their lead with Haseley and Griffiths going close at the start of the second period.

Skelmersdale's Fernandes was sent off in the 69th minute for a second bookable offence. Kenny Strickland curled a 79th free-kick into the side netting for the 10 men and Halesowen substitute Neil MacKenzie wasted an 81st minute free-kick awarded in the opposition's penalty area. Skelmersdale's afternoon worsened

Football

when Robert Bodie was also dismissed in the 86th minute for another foul on Griffiths.

Whitby 1 Stourbridge 0
STOURBRIDGE returned from Yorkshire empty-handed after a stunning injury time strike from Steven Snaith earned Whitby Town a last-gasp victory.

Snaith curled an unstoppable shot into the top corner beyond Dean Coleman to condemn the Glassboys to their second successive defeat on the road and to give the home side their first win in six games.

The hosts shaded the first half and could have taken an early lead through James Brown who struck the woodwork, before Snaith fired narrowly wide.

The visitors also came close to breaking the deadlock but George Bowerman's goal-bound effort was cleared off the line.

With the game drifting towards a draw, Snaith let fly with a curling effort from the left edge of the box.

The defeat sees Gary Hackett's men slip to 10th in the Evo-Stik Premier Division table.

Veteran shows there's still Hope – at age of 60



Lindsay Chilton, aged 60, player/manager of Hope Tavern FC with sons Jason, 26 and Lee Chilton, 29

THE Dudley & Cradley Heath League has changed a lot in the past 45 years and, remarkably, one man has witnessed it all.

Veteran left winger Lindsay Chilton is not only the manager, but also continues to turn out every Sunday for Hope Tavern in the Premier Division – at the ripe old age of 60!

"Football is my life – I can't give it up," said the part-time cleaner, of Netherton, Dudley. "My advice to

anyone looking to follow in my footsteps is to look after yourself and to carry on playing. I'm naturally fit because I watch what I eat and I don't drink or smoke."

"I have been with the Dudley & Cradley Heath League since the 1969-70 season, when I was 15 years old, back when there were nine divisions. We now have two divisions."

Lindsay, a Tottenham fan, has turned out for a number of teams

over the years but has remained loyal to his local league. Lindsay and his two sons, Lee and Jason, all scored in Tavern's recent 12-1 thrashing of Sedgley White Lions in the Ray Turley Memorial Trophy.

Now Chilton senior has set his side the task of winning all eight competitions they are vying for this season, having revealed that a few years ago he won all five competitions with Bush Athletic.

Heathens skipper takes it to the Max

TALENTED teenager Max Clegg has moved from reserve to captain and No.1 of Cradley Heath Speedway in the space of two seasons.

The 17-year-old has been unveiled as the man to lead the Heathens into the defence of their National League title and a switch of home track to Perry Barr.

Clegg joins 16-year-old Nathan Greaves in the top two of the side – and both were in the reserve positions when they won the league in 2013.

Heathens boss Will Pottinger said: "It's what the club is all about, we have seen these two lads develop as league title winners and we now have our two reserves from 2013 as our top two riders."

"Max and Nathan are well liked by everyone and we are delighted to have them leading our challenge next season. I'm very satisfied with the way the team has come together."

Clegg joins Greaves and new signings Mike Neale, Ellis Perks and Luke Harris at the club and he says it's a major honour for him to be captain of the famous club.

"From the moment I first joined Cradley I've always wanted to be a No.1 for them," he said.

Speedway teams are welcomed

THE 2015 British Speedway National League will have 10 clubs after new applicants Birmingham, Eastbourne and Rye House were welcomed at the league's AGM in Rugby.

Reigning champions Cradley Heath have been approved to defend their title after switching home meetings to Perry Barr.

National League 2015: Birmingham, Buxton, Cradley Heath, Coventry, Eastbourne, Kent, King's Lynn, Mildenhall, Rye House, Stoke; **National League knockout cup draw:** Round 1 Rye House v Stoke, King's Lynn v Mildenhall; Round 2 (starting in May): Kent v Coventry, Birmingham v Eastbourne, Rye House or Stoke v Cradley, King's Lynn or Mildenhall v Buxton; **National League Riders' Championship:** Rye House, September 2015; **National League Pairs:** King's Lynn, date tbc; **National League Fours:** Coventry, date tbc.

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Bid for three on the trot is in vain

Moseley Old Oak 19
Stourbridge Lions 10
LIONS aimed to make it three in a row for the first time this season with a tough trip to third-placed Moseley Oak.

Enforced absences meant there was a debut for James St Aubyn at hooker and a first full game of the season for Sam Strangward.

The game started badly for the Lions with the experienced and heavy home pack driving to the line and then scoring out wide on the left through the full-back.

The Lions survived heavy pressure and the score remained at the end of the first half. Sam Wilson, who otherwise had a fine game, missed a penalty chance to reduce the arrears.

For the first half of the second period, Lions pressed without joy and the home side scored first, a somewhat controversial, unconverted, try.

Within five minutes, Lions were back in it. Oak's 10 was binned for pulling back a Lions player. Finally, from a scrum close to the Oaks line Meakin drove other for a deserved try, converted by Wilson.

The next score was from Oaks when the Lions lost focus and again the No 8 was left to power over from close in for a converted score and a 19-10 lead.

Four players sent to sin bin

Old Hales 14 **Longton 8**
HALES overcame four yellow cards at various stages of the game to record a much-needed victory – after the visitors had taken the lead.

Longton made their advantage count after the temporary loss of Tom Dempsey, going 3-0 up with a penalty.

Carl Robinson was the next to go, but Luke Smith did go over for a try, converted by Chris Hopper.

Hopper added another conversion to debutant Dave Wakefield's try before both Andy Robinson and Andy Holloway were sent from the field to leave Old Hales with 13 players.

With a few minutes left to play, Longton scored a well worked try to reduce the arrears. Hales meet second placed Nuneaton away on Saturday, January 3, kick off at 2pm.

Deadly duo's absence a big blow to Wolves

Football

THE African Cup of Nations will pose problems for many clubs in England's top two divisions next month – with Wolves among them.

Mali duo Bakary Sako and Nouha Dicko have been directly responsible for almost half of Wolves' league goals this season, so their possible absence will be a big blow to the Molineux men.

The return of the Dicko/Sako combination against Brighton just before Christmas was a stark reminder of just how below-par Wolves have been while the pair have been separated. While Wolves' late equaliser,

when it finally arrived, came courtesy of skipper Danny Batth after Darren Bent's first-half header, it was Sako's endeavour and Dicko's threat that had worn the weary Seagulls down.

How Wolves have missed Dicko since the hamstring injury he picked up on international duty with Mali almost two months ago. Until the welcome victory at Sheffield Wednesday, Wanderers had failed to win a single game he had missed. Conversely,

when Dicko has played, Wolves have lost just twice in 14 matches and is the sort of player who gets the best out of those around him. Not least his buddy Sako.

Again, it cannot be by pure chance that the flying winger has suffered a slight dip in form without his compatriot alongside him.

He's not the only one to have struggled, of course, but Sako is the player Wolves look to as their match-winner and when he's off-colour so, generally, are Wanderers.

Boss Kenny Jackett said of the pair: "They do combine very well and one can spark off the other. When they are together

there is a good chemistry." But he admits his side will be tested by the African Cup of Nations, which starts in Morocco on January 17.

Jackett said: "Bakary is a player we are going to miss in January and there is the possibility of Nouha going as well – we know that.

"It's about making sure that along the front line we've got as many possibilities as we can have.

"The good thing is that the transfer window is opening during that period and we have the time to do something about it."

Weaver nets two for Town

Tipton Town 3 **Rochester 1**
WITH Tipton desperate to find a performance to re-instate some long-lost confidence to carry them into the second half of the season, this encounter loomed large as a 'must win' game.

They began positively – a very early opening arriving for Kyle Shepherd from Simon Badiane's inviting cross, only for the former's powerful header to whistle past the visitors' post. But Town fell behind in the 10th minute, Ryan Baker crashing in an effort off the underside of the bar, leaving Town to do it the hard way as they moved off the foot of the Midland Football League Premier Division.

It took until the 78th minute for Tipton to draw level through Steve Weaver and the same player put his side's nose in front soon after from the penalty spot.

Shepherd profited from tremendous work by substitute Sean Pugh to notch the 82nd minute winner.

Tipton might well have even scored again in the 88th minute when Shepherd's effort avoided the flailing hands of Froggatt and also the outstretched boot of Pugh.

Hosts drop to foot of table

Team Dudley 2 **Wyrley 4**
TEAM Dudley replaced Wyrley at the foot of West Midlands Division One.

James Hawthorne deflected past his own keeper to give Wyrley the lead and minutes later it was 2-0.

Mitch Blackham hit a second-half double, but Wyrley scored two in the last nine minutes to take the points.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford, Thursday, January 1

PATCHED-UP DK FALL TO DEFEAT

Scunthorpe 51 DK 5

DEPLETED DK travelled to Scunthorpe with a team ravaged by injuries and illness.

On the eve of the game, captain Ed Parry barely had 12 fit bodies but managed to scrape together a squad of 18.

DK kicked off playing up a slope and with the sun in their eyes and a stiff breeze was blowing across the pitch. It was DK who dominated the early exchanges. However, after 10 minutes Scunthorpe began to ease their way into the game.

As in previous weeks, the game was riddled with penalties. The home team opened their account after 12 minutes when they turned over DK possession which resulted in centre Ash Dibden crossing for an unconverted try.

Advantage

DK's resolute defence was eventually breached in the 18th minute when full back Steve Johnson scored underneath the posts. He duly added the extra points.

Following yet another penalty, DK failed to retreat the obligatory 10 metres.

Fly half Tom Foster took advantage of the extra yardage and took the quick tap penalty and crossed for a try converted by Steve Johnson.

DK made a change to their front row with Danny Richards replacing Russ Gauden.

The patched up DK team carried on defending manfully and it took the home team until just before half-time to increase their lead when prop Jack Leaning

Rugby

forced his way over. The home team constantly refused kicks at goal electing to scrummage but DK refused to buckle. In the 55th minute Scunthorpe reversed their tactics and following yet another penalty, elected to kick for goal. Steve Johnson added the three points.

In the 63rd minute the home side extended their lead when young flanker Si Fisher crossed for a try. DK then enjoyed a 10-minute purple patch and following a lineout, second row Edlyn Serge forced his way over for an unconverted try.

In the gathering darkness of the final 10 minutes, DK threw caution to the wind, which led to mistakes. Scunthorpe took full advantage and ran in a further three tries. Steve Johnson was successful with two of the conversions.

DK 0 Old Patesions 67

The Development team took on Old Pats after losing several players to the First XV. They were faced with a huge challenge, but despite their spirit and ceaseless tackling it became somewhat of a procession.



DK's try scorer Edlyn Serge is collared during a surge towards the Scunthorpe posts

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Any Classic Crust Pizza*
+ 1 Sumptuous Side
+ 1 Any Side**
Small £12.99
Medium £15.99
Large £17.99
**Excludes Combo, Ice cream, Chicken 14 & 21

SAVE UP TO £11.99 PIZZA FOR £5
Buy One Pizza*
Get 2nd for £5
*Highest price pizza charged at regular price.

33% OFF ONLINE
when you spend £30 or more at regular menu price.
Enter Code: TTKSTVSN
ONLINE ONLY. Excludes ice cream, chicken 14&21

SAVE UP TO £17.96 FAMILY FEAST
2 Classic Crust Pizzas*
+ Garlic Pizza Bread
+ Potato Wedges
+ Bottle of Drink
Medium £21.99 Large £24.99

T&Cs: *Pizza from the menu or create your own up to 4 toppings. Second Pizza must be equal or less value. Not valid with any other offer. Expiry date 31/12/14.